

Manly Roos Club Charter

A successful team and club culture doesn't just happen. It relies on coaches, parents, managers and players all agreeing to some principles on how their team and club should work. These are the principles which we have adopted at the Manly Roos, and everyone can rely on their clubmates to uphold them. They have been developed with many years of experience on what makes for fun and successful teams. Each year at our AGM, we will test and if necessary update these principles.

- 1. We prioritise safety, inclusion, fun and sportsmanship over winning.** Players will enjoy their rugby, stay playing, play better and, more than likely, win. If not, it's still been a great day of rugby. This means in particular:

- a. We keep our kids safe.** Coaches must have Smart Rugby or higher qualifications. While supporting players through minor scrapes, we rest players if there is a risk of concussion or other potentially long-term harm. We warm up players. We have qualified first aid workers at all games. Good sense has seen a huge drop in rugby injuries.
- b. We welcome all players.** One of rugby's great strengths is that every size, shape, speed and skill level can play and enjoy the game. You never know who will excel in their positions, and the stories of future stars starting in the 10Hs are many!
- c. All players get equal game time,** assuming equal effort at training,. Coaches manage their squads through the season to make sure this happens. The only exception is the finals series in the SJRU competition, when all the squad deserve their best shot at achieving a premiership.
- d. Be patient and positive.** This is all about kids having fun, rumbling around outside, learning about themselves and their mates. This is not professional rugby. Save the hard-talking 'motivational' speech for the very rare times when it is truly needed.
- e. Rugby builds character as well as skills.** We do not argue with or shout advice or abuse to the referee or linesmen. We do not argue with the other team. We do not argue with ourselves. We just do our best, smile, and get on with it.

- 2. We are a rugby club, not individual teams who happen to use the same ground.**

Coaches have a lot of leeway to run teams according to their beliefs and experience. But all teams belong to the Manly Roos or Manly Vikings first, with all that support that brings them. This means in particular:

- a. Age groups work together.** Wherever possible and definitely for the graded junior age groups (U10-17), age groups train together and support each other through the season. At training, they do warm up, fitness and drills together. They need to know each other and support each other through injuries and with opposed games at training. If they play opposed, coaches will swap backs and forwards or individual players to keep the games even, good fun, and a good test for all players.
- b. Minis teams are not graded, and junior teams are graded carefully.** Minis players play with their mates, but train as an age group. (Grading is OK for minis gala days.) With age groups working together, junior players are in the team that suits their skill level best. After team culture, that is the main factor in players staying in rugby. Players and parents must have confidence that if they are graded up or down, they will still be among their peers and friends in a good rugby atmosphere. Teams are graded after a 'possibles vs probables' trial match, with selection input from the Club's senior coaches as well as the team coaches.
- c. We support teams going on Club tours.** Roos teams in the U11s, 13s and 15s have traditionally gone on a rugby tour, with the Club supporting them through social events that double as fundraisers. All players hugely appreciate this opportunity.

3. We know and appreciate our own roles, and the other roles in our team and club.

It takes a lot of people to put a happy rugby team on to a prepared field with qualified match officials to play a fun and safe game of rugby. Every parent and player should know who does what (more information is on our website and in our team Handbook).

a. Coaches are responsible for their team and run it on game days and trainings.

With their support coaches, they develop team tactics, sportsmanship and culture, develop playing skills and attitudes, select positions and captains. They must attend the Club's preseason Coaches and Managers' night, know the Laws of Rugby and the Competition Rules, and have both a Smart Rugby or higher coaching and a Working with Children accreditation.

b. Managers support coaches with team communication, registrations and gear.

Managers look after the team jerseys, contact details, team rosters, competition sign-on sheets, communication (many use apps for this) between the team, the age coordinator and the Club, team BBQs, game day ground-marshall, linesman and canteen rosters, and other parent roles. Coaches and managers work as one, and parents can raise matters with either.

c. Parents support the team coaches and managers. Most importantly, prioritise safety, inclusion, fun and sportsmanship over winning (see above), and do your easy rostered duties. There are many more ways to help your kids enjoy their rugby. Teams need assistant referees (linesmen), ground marshals, training helpers, ice packs, drink runners, half-time energy boosts, an eye on the team kit (and balls) while the coach's eyes are on the game.

d. Age coordinators support the team coaches and managers. The age coordinator makes sure the teams have all the information and gear they need to play rugby and to take part in age and Club events. They attend the Club meetings to represent the age group and share information. Any queries or concerns about your player's enjoyment of the Roos should go first to the Age Coordinator.

e. Canteen volunteers support all players. Our canteen and clubhouse is the centrepoint for our club, where we can get refreshments and Club gear, raise money for much-needed facilities and gear, and catch up with our other teams and news. When the canteen manager calls for help, we need it!

f. Club officials support all players. For Manly Roos teams to play, we need to sign off on all sorts of insurance and registrations. Club officials volunteer to take on those responsibilities, and work hard to provide the teams with what's needed, and resolve any problems. Most are also team coaches, so know the issues that arise. After asking your team manager, contact the right person when needed:

- **Registrar** – To make sure players are listed in the right team sheets
- **Treasurer** – To claim for team equipment (up to \$100/year)
- **Juniors Vice President** – On anything to do with the SJRU rules
- **Minis Vice President** – On anything to do with minis teams and competitions
- **President** – On anything at all, after first going to the other officers

4. We know and appreciate the Club basics.

Every parent should know that:

- The Roos will do everything they can to help families enjoy their time with the Roos
- Any parent is welcome to any club meeting
- We start the season with a coaches and managers meeting
- Jerseys are Club property and must be looked after and returned
- All of us are needed to volunteer in very small ways through the year
- There is always more that could be done, with more volunteers.