

RGU SPORTS CLUBS CODE OF CONDUCT

1.0 Introduction

This Code of Conduct applies to all members of an RGU Sports Club and any individual that volunteers within an RGU Sports Club. It applies to:

- Organised RGU Sports Club activity. This includes, but is not limited to; sports club fixtures, competition, social events, travelling to and from organised events and online communication under, and including, any association name of RGU Sports Clubs, RGU Union and Robert Gordon University.
- Services or facilities they enjoy by virtue of being a member or volunteer of an RGU Sports Club.
- Their presence in the vicinity of, or their access to, any premises owned, leased or managed by the Robert Gordon University, RGU Union or RGU Sports Clubs.
- Any activity not covered by the above, which is considered to adversely affect student safety, interests or the reputation of RGU Sports Clubs, its students and representatives as outlined in this code.

Robert Gordon University's [Dignity at RGU Policy](#) and [Academic Regulation A3-2 Student Conduct Procedure](#) are applicable to all students of the University and may supersede the RGU Sports Clubs Code of Conduct in any instances deemed appropriate by the President of Sport and Physical Activity, in consultation with the Head of Sport and Programme Development Manager. These instances will be escalated to the University to take on investigative and disciplinary responsibility. All members, whether student or otherwise, are strongly encouraged to read the [Dignity at RGU Policy](#) and [Academic Regulation A3-2 Student Conduct Procedure](#).

RGU Sports Club members are automatically members of RGU Union and therefore must abide by the [RGU Students' Union Code of Practice and must adhere to RGU Union Regulations](#).

2.0 Aims of the Code of Conduct

The essence of good ethical conduct and practice are summarised below:

- To protect affiliated members of RGU Sports Clubs.
- To protect others potentially affected by member's actions.
- Ensure the highest possible standards of fairness, honesty, competition, and behaviour.
- Consider the wellbeing and safety of participants and reduce the risk of harm, injury, harassment and nuisance to members and the community in general.
- Create inclusive and vibrant student groups, who actively promote the mental, social and physical benefits of participating in sport.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part.
- Detail the actions that can be taken should the Code of Conduct be breached.

3.0 To Whom does this Code of Conduct Apply?

This Code of Conduct applies to all parties associated with RGU Sports Clubs, as summarised below:

- All members of an RGU Sports Club.
- All persons officially appointed to any team or individual competing in an event (including; administrators, coaches, managers and any other appointed staff, volunteers or students).

4.0 Member Conduct

Every member of an RGU Sports Club has a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner which positively reflects themselves, their club, RGU Union and the University, when taking part in organised RGU Sports Club activity.

The RGU Sports Clubs community operates under conditions which permit freedom of thought/expression, mutual trust, confidence and respect the rights of other persons.

RGU Sports Club members are required to comply with [Robert Gordon University](#) and [RGU Union policies, constitution's and regulations](#). Where appropriate RGU Sports Clubs Members may be required to comply with short-lived policy, such as RGU Sports Clubs Guiding Principles which were in place during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In turn RGU Sports Clubs will:

- Make this guidance readily available to all.
- Will make student welfare a priority, by attempting to act as early as possible to minimise member or volunteer distress.
- Seek to share guidance and sources of support during/following disciplinary procedures.
- Deal with all disciplinary issues in a proportionate and transparent way
- Respect the need for confidentiality
- Follow the Data Protection Act.

5.0 Misconduct

In line with Robert Gordon University's [Dignity Policy](#) actions deemed as a breach of conduct include:

- Violence
- Bullying
- Cyberbullying
- Harassment
- Forms of Hate Crime
- Gender Based Violence
- Victimisation
- Complicity

A list of illustrative examples of each of the above behaviours can be found on page 12 in the [Dignity at RGU Policy in Appendix 1 - Illustrative Examples of Unacceptable Behaviours](#). This policy is applicable to every member, volunteer, and spectator attending a British University and College Sport (BUCS) or Scottish Student Sport (SSS) event. They are expected to adhere to [BUCS Regulation 5 Misconduct and Bringing BUCS Into Disrepute](#).



6.0 Reporting and Investigating Misconduct

Inappropriate behaviour should be reported to the President of Sport and Physical Activity, who will carry out an initial investigation. Following an initial investigation if deemed necessary, the RGU Sports Club member(s) may be invited to a disciplinary hearing, held by the disciplinary committee.

Where students of Robert Gordon University are concerned, RGU Sports Clubs may escalate investigative and disciplinary responsibility to the University, under [Academic Regulation A3-2 Student Misconduct Procedure](#), primarily in cases of severe misconduct or where an individual is in immediate danger.

7.0 Disciplinary Committee

Following investigation, a Sports Club Member, Volunteer or Club, will be brought in front of the disciplinary committee, comprised of: Vice President of Sport, a member of the Sport and Physical Activity Team, an RGU SPORT representative and a non-sports member of the Union Executive Board.

The club/individual will be informed 10 working days before the meeting and must attend.

The President of Sport & Physical Activity will be responsible for organising and facilitating the hearing and will present to the committee. The disciplinary hearing is an opportunity for those involved to share their account of events. Following the hearing the disciplinary committee will devise outcomes including possible sanctions.

Examples of possible sanctions include but are not limited to.

- Written Warnings
- Participation in education training programmes
- Suspension from club activities
- Removal from committee positions
- Ban from club activities and associated venues

Following the outcome of the hearing, the club/individual must inform the President of Communications and Democracy within five working days if they wish to place an appeal. The appeal committee will consist of: The President of Communications and Democracy, an RGU SPORT representative and a member of the sports forum. The President of Communications and Democracy is the convener. The club/individual will be informed 10 working days before the meeting and must attend.

If any of the above are absent at the time, the committee will comprise of those deemed suitable by RGU Union and RGU SPORT.