

**Rugby Illinois**  
**Club/Administrator Code of Conduct**

**Preamble**

Pursuant to the accomplishment of the Rugby Illinois Mission to provide a positive and safe rugby football experience in the best spirit of sportsmanship and fair play, this **Code of Conduct** (hereafter referred to as the Code) for all clubs and club administrators is hereby enacted. All persons of responsibility associated with any Rugby Illinois club are required to read, sign and abide by the Code at all times in their rugby related activities.

**Affiliation/Attestation**

I, Indigo Niznik-Darden serve in the role(s) of Coach for the Chicago Lions Rugby Club. By placement of my signature and that of a reliable witness thereof, I do attest to having read and pledge to abide by all that is contained in the Code.

**Code of Conduct for Rugby Illinois Clubs and Club Administrators**

I pledge that I will administer our club according to the following expectations:

1. I recognize the physical and emotional status of Rugby Illinois players and pledge to conduct all club activities in a manner so as to promote only positive development of these domains within each player.
2. I pledge to ensure, through instructions and personal behavior, that all club players and administrators treat all teammates, coaches, opponents and match officials with respect at all times and in all interactions. Specifically, I will not allow club members to insult, degrade or taunt opponents or question or argue with match officials' decisions.
3. I pledge to ensure that the players are coached to play the game according to the Laws of the game and to actively discourage illegal and dangerous tactics and actions. Specifically, I will take remedial action with players who have a demonstrated history of punching, kicking, fighting or dangerous tackling. Further, I will positively represent any and all decisions of the Rugby Illinois and its Disciplinary Committee to all club members and their friends/family members.
4. I pledge to discourage the use of any performance enhancing drug or chemical agent.
5. I pledge to disallow the use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances by club members. Specifically, the club will not allow the consumption of alcohol at matches.
6. I pledge to conduct Club activities in a manner consistent with any affiliated organization's (i.e. school or park district) behavior/attendance/academic rules and regulations. If our club is not affiliated with any specific school, I pledge to follow said regulations from the school which the majority of club players attend. Specifically, our Club leadership will state to participating families that rugby activity is deemed secondary to each player's academic responsibilities.
7. I pledge to conduct Club activities according to all Rugby Illinois, and USA Rugby (USAR) regulations. Specifically, the Club will ensure that all players and administrators are CIPP registered, appropriate safety personnel are in attendance at each match, **all** club coaches have a USAR coaching certification (contact clubs must have at least one L200 coach), **all** club administrators have passed the USAR criminal background check, and sideline barriers are placed correctly at all matches. Club officials will make reasonable efforts to be in attendance at a minimum of 75% of Rugby Illinois meetings, and that any match cancellation be communicated to the opposing side and referee no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off. Further, the Club and I accept that failure to meet these expectations may lead to disciplinary sanctions by the Rugby Illinois.
8. I pledge to ensure that the club has an emergency procedure in place for all practices and matches. Specifically, a telephone, first aid kit and a pertinent player information notebook will be at all club assemblies. Further, printed directions to the nearest emergency medical facility will be available for all members of a visiting team's group.
9. I acknowledge that the Rugby Illinois, USAR and match referees have the privilege to amend expectations of clubs and their members as they see fit. Specifically, I agree to abide by any expectation that these rugby governing entities may communicate to the Club.

Signature   
Printed Name Indigo Niznik-Darden  
Position: Coach/Referee/Administrator/Other: Coach  
(circle at least one category above)  
Date 11/12/26

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Position: Coach/Referee/Administrator/Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle at least one category above)  
Date \_\_\_\_\_