



## **PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT**

**This code of conduct relates to both Gloucester and Worcester participants.**

### **WHAT DO WE EXPECT?**

Varsity is a competitive but respectful event, and all players represent their club, Students' Union and University. You are expected to uphold good sporting conduct **before, during and after all fixtures.**

Both Universities and Students' Unions are committed to ensuring Varsity is a safe and supportive environment. Players must act in ways that protect the welfare, dignity and safety of others at all times. Any behaviour that causes harm, distress or concern, including harassment, bullying or inappropriate conduct, will be treated seriously.

Varsity is a privilege to participate in and requires significant time, cost and organisation from both Unions. All players and spectators are expected to respect this and contribute positively to the experience for everyone.

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## **Own the Moment**

We want Varsity 2026 to be a set of fixtures that can be enjoyed by every single person, whether they are a player, a spectator, or part of the wider university community.

Our campaign, Own the Moment, is about recognising the shared moments amongst teams, spectators and friends. It's about being positive, respectful and supportive, making sure every moment, on and off the pitch, is one to be proud of.

We want our Varsity fixtures to be a safe space for all to support, participate in and enjoy and throughout Varsity, we are asking all players and spectators to:

- Step up in the Moment by being active bystanders challenge inappropriate, harmful, or discriminatory behaviour and use the Varsity Reporting Tool when needed.
- Respect every moment by valuing diversity and treating all players, spectators, and staff with dignity.
- Support every moment by celebrating our teams, our opposition, and the community that makes Varsity special.

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Staff from both SUs will be on hand to help with any concerns that you may have.



**A policy of zero tolerance will be applied to all Varsity events.**

## **WHAT BEHAVIOUR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED?**

### **Safety & Conduct**

- Arriving at an event drunk or otherwise intoxicated.
- Being involved in any way in the use of illegal drugs whilst at fixtures
- Abusing, threatening, discriminatory or intimidating behaviour towards any player, spectator, match official, coach, staff or any other participant, whether before, during or after the event.
- Harassment, unwanted physical contact, or any behaviour that compromises welfare or safety.
- Violent, unsafe or physically aggressive behaviour on or off the pitch
- Behaving in a manner which could cause distress, alarm, or harm to another.
- Pitch invasions or entering restricted areas.
- Damage to property or acting unlawfully.

### **Respect & Compliance**

- Not complying with directions issued by event officials, transport drivers, first aid or medical staff, security or stewards, or Students' Union or University staff.
- Showing disrespect or disruptive behaviour towards any person at the event.
- Conducting yourselves in any manner, or engage in any activity, whether before, during or after the event that would impair the reputation of your Club, Student Union, University, or university sport in general.

### **Social Media & Filming**

- Using social media to offend, abuse, threaten or intimidate any player, spectator, match official, coach, staff, or any other participant, whether before, during or after the event.

### **ALCOHOL**

- **Players must not consume alcohol before or during any Varsity fixture.**
- **Any player suspected or found to have consumed alcohol will not be permitted to play and may be removed from the event.**
- No alcohol is to be brought to any fixtures or into any venues and will be confiscated.
- Alcohol is NOT permitted on any transport to or from Varsity events.
- We reserve the right to search your person and belongings at each event and before any transportation to and from an event.

**Please remember that families, including children, often attend Varsity events.**



## **WHAT HAPPENS IF THIS CODE IS BREACHED?**

### **Any breach may result in:**

- Immediate removal from the venue.
- Being refused entry to all future Varsity events.
- Loss of transport privileges (you may need to arrange your own return travel).
- Photographic recording of the incident.
- Referral to SU disciplinary procedures.
- Referral to University disciplinary procedures (sanctions may include suspension or expulsion).

## **HOW TO MAKE A REPORT?**

- Inform your captain or a member of staff immediately.
- Representatives from each Union will review the complaint and take action including but not limited to those outlined in this document which they deem appropriate.

### **Please also note:**

- **We reserve the right to amend or implement new regulations throughout the Varsity programme and for different fixtures.**
- **We reserve the right to cancel Varsity at any point if problems are being experienced.**
- **Serious incidents may impact future Varsity events.**

We hope you enjoy Varsity 2026 and represent your sport, Students' Union and University with pride. Varsity takes a great deal of time and effort to organise, and we want it to be safe, enjoyable and respectful for everyone - so play well, support positively and **Own the Moment**. Thank you for your cooperation in helping make Varsity a successful and memorable experience for all. Best of luck to you.

**#TeamWorc #TeamGlos**