

Andover RFC Senior Selection Policy

Andover RFC is a community Rugby club which strives to be inclusive and provide Rugby for all local people who wish to play.

This principal underpins the selection policy of the club which is designed to promote commitment to all aspects of the club and in particular playing and training.

The club is a members club and is governed by a set of rules administered by an executive committee.

The club Director of Rugby is a member of this committee and the governance of senior rugby is devolved to this post holder.

The Director of rugby has a selection committee which in turn has devolved responsibility for all matters of selection of senior teams and players.

The Director of Rugby chairs that committee which comprises of all team captains, managers and coaches.

The role of the Director of Rugby within that committee is to ensure fairness in selection taking into account the principals of being a legitimate club member and being committed to training and playing.

In cases of dispute the Director of Rugby has the final decision making authority.

In making such a decision the committee will consider the following

1. Is the candidate a paid up club member or new player intending to become a member? (Players in default of membership or subs cannot play until the default is either paid or resolved by agreement).
2. Is the candidate able and safe to play at the level for which he is being considered?
3. Is the player committed to playing regularly in any location for any team for which he is selected? (Players who refuse to play for a side will not be selected for anyone the following week.)
4. Is the player committed to training whenever possible?(Not a no train no play policy, but recognising the difference between can't train and won't train)
5. Is the player abiding by the normal discipline of team membership? (E.g. Collecting shirts, sweeping, respect for captain/coaches etc.)
6. Is a player coming down a team (a Player who is dropped from or benched for a higher team the week before, must start in the lower team the following week.)

Once a player's legitimacy for selection is established the decision as to who is the best candidate for selection rests with the relevant coaches and captain.

The above principals will not be relevant where cases of unavailability are due to injury or illness.

The above principals will be especially relevant when players of similar ability are vying for the same place in a team.

The effect of this policy is that it is first the job of the selection committee to establish the legitimacy of a candidate against competing candidates, before the actual selection is made.

It is accepted that on occasions this may lead to a player not being selected who coaches and captains may view as a stronger player.

The club firmly believes however that in the longer term this policy will cement the principals that underpin membership of the club and provide a fair, open and transparent process that favours those most committed to all aspects of playing membership.

Andy Waite

Director of Rugby

Andover RFC

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