

# Safeguarding at Woodbridge Rugby Club

Woodbridge Rugby Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in rugby at our club.

Woodbridge Rugby Club confirms that it adheres to all the RFU's Safeguarding Policies and procedures, recommended practices and guidelines and furthermore endorse and adopt the statements contained in those documents. These can be viewed at:

<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/>

For the definitions under 'Child Protection', a child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17 year old male player is playing in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure his safety and wellbeing are protected.

The Key Principles of the RFU Welfare Policy are that:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult (as appropriate) is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations.
- All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse or harm and should be able to enjoy their rugby in a positive, safe and enjoyable environment.
- All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm, discrimination and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
- Children have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited and vetted adult.

## Child Protection Codes of Conduct

In the interest of maintaining child welfare it is important to adhere to the following rules when applicable:

- All rugby coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person with whom they work with and treat them equally within the context of rugby union.
- All rugby coaches must place the physical and emotional wellbeing of all young players above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- The relationship that a rugby coach develops with the players with whom they work must be based on mutual trust and respect.
- All rugby coaches must ensure that all activities undertaken are appropriate to the age, maturity, experience and ability of the young players.
- All rugby coaches must encourage young players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.

All coaches and adult helpers working with young people at our club will be made aware of good safeguarding practices and any poor practices will be addressed immediately.

It is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility at Woodbridge Rugby Club to report concerns. Woodbridge Rugby Club is committed to working in partnership with parents/carers and statutory welfare agencies in order to safeguard the young people at our club. The Club Safeguarding Officer is Chris Gordon, Tel: 01394 380708 Mob: 07824643284.

If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult has been put at risk you must in the first instance inform the Club Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the CB Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Executive. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform the Club Chairman or contact the RFU Safeguarding team at [www.rfu.com](http://www.rfu.com)

All members of Woodbridge Rugby Club who have a regular supervisory contact with children or a management responsibility for those working with children shall undertake an RFU Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

In summary, the following are **NOT** acceptable and will be treated seriously by the club and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the club, the CB or the RFU:

- Working alone with a child, children, vulnerable adult, or adults.
- Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or vulnerable adults.
- Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
- Smoking in the presence of children.
- Humiliating children or vulnerable adults.
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.
- Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children or vulnerable adults.
- Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or vulnerable adult developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust.'
- Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.

Woodbridge Rugby Club manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by at least two adults (DBS checked) of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. Woodbridge Rugby Club ensures that all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same time, using the same facilities as children or vulnerable adults:

We strongly recommend that coaches **DO NOT** participate in communication with children on social networking sites or by personal or frequent text messaging. Contact with players should always be via (or copied to) their parent or carer.

**Please note: A responsible adult whether the parent or an appointed other should be present at all times when a child is engaged in activity at Woodbridge Rugby Club or when representing the club at an away fixture. If this obligation is not respected unfortunately the child will be withdrawn from the game/training that he/she is involved in. The club cannot act in locum parentis.**