



**RFU**

**RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION**

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# **Safeguarding Bulletin**

January 2022

# DBS, Barnardo's and new faces...

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## Happy New Year

The Safeguarding team at the RFU would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you all for your hard work and efforts throughout 2021. We know that the last two years have come with significant challenges and we will endeavour to continue supporting you as best we can.

We would like to take this time to share some key information with you all that will hopefully be of use, to introduce some new members of the team, and to invite you all to share your examples of best practices in safeguarding at your club. These could be examples of what works well in your club, a new initiative, a positive story, or something you've heard and have decided to try. [Do get in touch with us](#) and we may be able to feature it in our next bulletin!

## DBS Reminders

Over the past several months, we've noticed some clubs submitting DBS checks after the individual has been at the club for longer than four weeks. Please remember, in section [21.2.2 of regulation 21](#), we include our requirements relating to DBS checks for individuals working in regulated activity. The first requirement is;

*"to apply for a DBS disclosure processed through the RFU Safeguarding Team **within four weeks** of their employment or appointment".*

While the individual is awaiting the results of their DBS check, please bear in mind that they must always be supervised when working with children or adults at risk. When the results of their check come back, and no content was found, they can begin working in regulated activity.

A definition of regulated activity can be found [here](#), and for further guidance on DBS checks, please ensure you read [regulation 21](#) (section 21.2).

## Touchline behaviour

Clubs must remember that the environment children and adults at risk play rugby in will have a huge effect on their enjoyment of the game, and how likely they are to continue playing. Clubs should consider aspects of the environment that could affect this, such as poor touchline behaviour from spectators, the club's attitude towards winning and how instilled the core values are.

With this in mind, we want to remind clubs about the importance of respectful touchline behaviour, as this is a crucial element of building a safe and fun environment at your club. Remember,

## Useful Resources

[RFU Safeguarding Page](#)

[DBS Enquiries](#)

[General Safeguarding Advice](#)

[GMS Assistance](#)

[RFU Safeguarding Twitter Page](#)

Don't forget the RFU 24 hour child protection messaging service – telephone 0208 831 6655

## Top DBS tips

1. Not everyone needs a DBS check!  
Only people in regulated activity
2. If you're unsure about anything relating to DBS, we have an [FAQs document](#)
3. Just because people come into contact with children, this does not mean they need a DBS
4. DBS is only a snapshot of an individual's suitability to work with children. Make sure it's updated every three years!
5. The RFU are always on hand to help with queries – [contact them here!](#)

A good spectator will:

- Respect the decisions made by the coaches and referees
- Offer encouragement, not criticism
- Remember that players are here to have fun and develop, not to have their self-esteem diminished
- Act as a role model, and encourage fair play, teamwork and sportsmanship

A bad spectator will:

- Argue decisions made by the referee and coaches
- Disrespect the opposition
- Shout at players, which could be considered as bullying or harassment
- Have a 'win at all costs' attitude and be angry if the team lose

If Clubs are experiencing spectators who persistently behaviour poorly on the touchline, please get in touch with the [Safeguarding Team](#).

## **Barnardo's and the RFU**

This year, the RFU have started work with Barnardo's, who are a leading children's charity and safeguarding consultancy firm. We are currently working together to do a review of our safeguarding work and the resources we offer and to build a safeguarding strategy. As part of this, we are beginning work on several new pieces that will help support you and your club.

As part of this, we are looking at writing a Code of Conduct template for clubs, to help clubs ensure that they can effectively deal with misconduct at their club, as well as giving clubs a guideline on what behaviour they should expect at their club.

To ensure this is as applicable for clubs as possible, we would welcome feedback from you all on whether or not:

- You think this would be useful;
- What are some of the most common misconduct issues you face
- What would you like to see in a Code of Conduct
- Any further feedback you have.

If you have any feedback on this, please do get in touch with the [Safeguarding Team](#).

## **New faces!**

Since our last bulletin, we have also seen the addition of two new members to the team, Case Officer Mick Maguire and Quality Assurance and Development Officer, Tom Ramsell. We asked them the below questions so you can know a bit more about them:

Tell us more about your role

Tom: I'm responsible for supporting the team in the pro-active side of Safeguarding, which focuses more on developing policies and procedures, helping add to our resources and looking at ways in which we can improve.

Mick: I'm responsible for investigating and managing safeguarding concerns and for supporting

clubs with their safeguarding concerns and enquiries. I also liaise with statutory agencies and children's social care regarding child protection strategies.

What do you think clubs should do to ensure good safeguarding practice?

Tom: I think the most important thing clubs can do is to always reflect on what they're doing now, and how can this be improved. Always be proactive with safeguarding, look to gain feedback from children and parents and do as much as you can to ensure everyone knows how and when to report concerns.

Mick: Communicating with the RFU is really key. Clubs need to speak with us or their CBSM if they have safeguarding concerns. Clubs should also have written safeguarding processes in place and should communicate this to their club regularly, which will also help to empower volunteers.

What's your favourite bit about your role

Tom: My favourite part of my role is the ability to be creative and to engage with lots of different people. I am always looking to build on current structures and I thoroughly enjoy getting to hear different opinions from lots of different people in lots of different roles.

Mick: My favourite part of my role is working within a great team and having the opportunity to learn from others. It's also great to work within a top sporting environment, and in a role where I feel like I am actually making a difference.

