



RFU

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Safeguarding Bulletin

April 2022

Welcome, Club Safeguarding Officers!

With the season coming to an end once again, we hope you're all looking forward to breaking from weekly competitive Rugby and have the opportunity to reflect on how this season has progressed. For some of you, Tours will be approaching, or in full swing. As ever, we strongly recommend clubs familiarise themselves with our [Touring with Children Guidance](#).

We would like to take this time to share some key information with you all that will hopefully be of use, to share some updates, and to invite you all to get in touch and feedback to us on our upcoming plans. We are also always on the lookout for best practices from clubs, so please do share your stories! This could be a new initiative, a positive story, or something your club has decided to try.

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

Training Requirements Reminder

We would like to kindly remind all Club Safeguarding Officers to ensure that any new volunteer at your club who is undertaking a DBS check carries out the RFU's Online Safeguarding Awareness training **before** starting the DBS check process. This includes any DBS renewals.

We are seeing more and more people complete their DBS checks before they carry out the Introduction to Safeguarding training, and this is not in line with [Regulation 21](#), which clubs are bound to.

Please ensure that this training is completed by all individuals **before** their DBS. The training, which is free and online, [can be found here](#).

Top training tips

1. Be proactive in signposting people to the training they have to do. Don't leave it till later!
2. Training is hugely beneficial for everyone involved. The more volunteers you have trained up, the higher skilled workforce you have!
3. Everyone who comes into contact with children should do Safeguarding training.



Physical Intervention

We have been receiving more and more referrals from Clubs where adults, being either coaches or parents, have entered the field of play and physically restrained a child. This is unacceptable, and if this occurs, please ensure to report this to the RFU Safeguarding Team via safeguarding@rfu.com.

Discipline on the field of play is the responsibility of the players. Coaches, team managers and parents must always promote good discipline among the players, both on and off the field. Penalising play which contravenes the laws of the game is the responsibility of the referee. Coaches, managers and spectators should not intervene or enter the field of play.

There is further detail in the RFU Safeguarding Children Policy, which describes the few scenarios in which physical intervention is acceptable, and what is imperative to do in those situations. Please ensure that everyone in your club is familiar with this.

Involving the voice of the child

As everyone in Safeguarding roles would have heard before, taking a child-centred approach is paramount to creating safer clubs. This naturally refers to ensuring that every decision you make regarding policy or procedure, is centred around whether that decision will make the environment safer for the child.

However, it is very easy to forget to actively involve the child in this process. It is important to consult with children on what they feel makes them safe, what they do and don't like about their environment, and if there is anything they would like to see different.

There are lots of different things clubs can do to involve the voice of the child, such as:

- holding feedback sessions and asking what they do and don't like about their rugby sessions
- Asking how they feel when they play rugby or are in the club
- Checking if they know who their Club Safeguarding Officer is and what they think their role is
- Asking what they would like to see their club do more of

The RFU are launching an 'Engaging Young Volunteers' guide in June, which focuses on how clubs can involve young people more and shares insights into the benefits of doing so. We strongly recommend giving it a read when it comes out, so watch this space!



Summer activity return to play

The RFU Summer Activity Framework replaces the normal age grade out of season regulations (regulation 15.8) this year. The Framework is a menu to choose from, clubs don't have to play/train in the off season. For those that do, the framework shows the maximum activity permitted for each month. All matches are friendlies due to being out of season.

For more details on the framework, [please visit the 'Summer Activity' section of the website.](#)

In touch

Please see below for the following In Touch dates. Remember, as CSOs, it is a requirement that you attend an In Touch course.

- Tuesday 10th May 19:00 – 21:30
- Thursday 26th May 19:00 – 21:30
- Wednesday 8th June 19:00 – 21:30
- Saturday 2nd July 10:00 – 12:30

All In Touch courses will be held virtually.

Feedback

As you would have seen, we recently published our Club Safeguarding Officer role description. If you have any thoughts on this or would like to be involved in the feedback process for future pieces of work, please let us know.

Over the off-season, we will also be revamping our website, with the addition of several new guidance notes. Again, we will update you when this is complete, but if you would like to be given the opportunity to feedback on these, then please get in touch and let us know.

Enjoy the summer!



