



RFU

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Safeguarding Bulletin

December 2022

Welcome, Club Safeguarding Officers!

Merry Christmas from the RFU Safeguarding Team! We hope you're having a fantastic season and are looking forward to the New Year. The RFU Safeguarding team wish you every success in the New Year and as always, is here for any questions or areas of concern you may have.

We are currently revamping our Play it Safe training workshop and our Touring Guidance, so please keep your eyes on these two, new and improved, resources in the New Year. We have worked with several CBSMs and CSOs who have provided valuable feedback on these areas, and we would like to thank them for their input.

As usual, we are also looking for best practices from clubs, so **please share your stories!** We would love to be able to feature a club in the next bulletin so we can share their success with you all.

e-learning before DBS reminder

All Club Safeguarding Officers must ensure that any volunteer who is undertaking a DBS check carries out the RFU's Online Safeguarding Awareness training before starting the DBS check process, including any DBS renewals. We are seeing more and more people complete their DBS checks before they carry out the Introduction to Safeguarding training, which is not in line with Regulation 21, which clubs are bound to. Please ensure that the e-learning has been completed when you undertake ID verification; failure to do so may result in delays in DBS approvals.

We would also like to reiterate that this training does not need to be done every year.

The training, which is free and online, **can be found here.**

Useful Resources

[RFU Safeguarding Page](#)

[DBS Enquiries](#)

[General Safeguarding Advice](#)

[GMS Assistance](#)

[RFU Safeguarding Twitter Page](#)

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

In-touch dates for 2023

From January, the RFU team will move to hold in-Touch once a month up until June, and we are proposing the below dates. Please ensure to book yourself onto an in-Touch workshop within 3 months of commencing your role.

- 11th January
- 8th February
- 8th March
- 12th April
- 10th May



Regulated activity and DBS checks

Every individual in regulated activity is required to have an Enhanced DBS check carried out. Regulated activity is defined as an activity which involves:

teaching, training, instructing, caring or supervising children, that is carried out by the same person once a week or more, or on 4 or more days in 30 days, unsupervised, by someone over 16 years old.

Regulation 21 states that any person aged 16 or over who is involved in any of the activities described as Regulated Activity, but does not do so frequently enough to meet the definition of Regulated Activity is required to apply for an enhanced DBS disclosure without a Barred List check.

We are seeing more and more clubs request DBS checks for people who do not fit the above criteria, and we would like to remind clubs to please visit the [Safer Recruitment Information for Club Safeguarding Officers section of our website](#), where we have information and guidance on what roles do and do not require DBS checks.

Play it Safe and eLearning

We are pleased to announce that we have recently finished writing and developing the new Play it Safe workshop, and are currently in the piloting stage of the workshop, with a few deliveries taking place this month and early January.

We have developed a new workshop, along with a new learner workbook, which will be ready for delivery before the end of the season. The workshop focuses on empowering volunteers in the club to take ownership of safeguarding, reflect on their practice and challenge the 'current standard' of safeguarding at their club. We also include information regarding recent changes in legislation and processes, as well as focusing on bystander intervention and grooming in organisational settings.

As part of the workshop review, we have also decided to make the current 'Introduction to Safeguarding course' an online pre-requisite for Play it Safe. This way, we can ensure that more people are doing the eLearning, as well as reduce the length of the Play it Safe workshop, where we can spend less time on legislation and more time on practical discussions.

If a learner has already completed the eLearning within 6 months of the Play it Safe that they're signed up to, they will not need to re-do the eLearning.



Sharing concerns

We want to ensure that all CSOs are aware of our unmanned (UM) reporting line. The RFU safeguarding team can be contacted by email (safeguarding@rfu.com) and by telephone at 0208 831 6655.

The telephone number, which is **not** a hotline, is a 24-hour number, meaning it can be called 24 hours a day, **not** answered 24 hours a day. The telephone is an **unmanned** telephone number, and you will be asked to leave a voicemail, where we will respond to you within 24 hours. So if you are calling that number to share a concern, please do not expect someone to pick up the phone.

When sharing concerns, it is critical that you do this as soon as you possibly can. Waiting to report to us can result in confusion, losing the accuracy of the information and disrupting the RFU's ability to investigate the matter if necessary. Please always aim to share a concern with the RFU within 24 hours of you receiving the concern.

For further information on sharing concerns, please visit the [Sharing Concerns](#) section of our website.

2022 - 2023 Safeguarding Audit

The Safeguarding Audit 2022-23 is set to close on the 31st of December 2022, and will have a hard deadline for clubs. This means that if your club has still not completed the audit by the deadline, the club will face disciplinary action from the RFU. So far, over 600 clubs have completed the audit, which only takes 10-15 minutes.

If you are struggling to complete the audit, please contact your CBSM for support, and read the GMS help article '[How to complete the safeguarding audit](#)'.



