

Safeguarding - a summary

Devizes Rugby Club is committed to safeguarding of all young players and children who are members of this club or who are present at the club to play or watch rugby so that all children can take part in rugby and other sports in a safe, protected, and enjoyable environment.

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility – though coaches working with children and parents supporting their children and their friends have particular responsibility to look out for the interests of children.

Types of behaviour that put children at risk

- Physical abuse – Physical assault, physical punishments or forcing a child to play or train in a situation which is beyond their physical capacity and risks injury to them.
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse –subjecting a child to constant criticism or making them the butt of sarcasm or bullying, consistently not recognising their efforts or pressuring them to perform to unrealistically high standards.
- Neglect – Failing to provide a safe training / playing environment, unnecessary exposure to severe weather conditions, failing to provide appropriate clothing and equipment for the conditions, failing to address injuries.
- Bullying – By other children, parents of coaches – including over-focus on “winning at all costs”. This can take place via cyber channels as well as within the confines of the Club.
- Poor club practice – Ignoring or taking shortcuts with Club / RFU policy on the responsibilities of coaches and adult spectators Common examples are aggressive and abusive spectators, Adults and children playing / training for contact rugby together, adults encouraging children to drink alcohol or lack of supervision of groups of children – e.g. on tour.

The Club's safeguarding policy is based on the principles that the welfare of children come first and that everyone will work in partnership to promote the welfare, health and development of children.

A “Child” is defined by the RFU as any boy or girl *playing or watching* junior rugby, A player stops being a “Child” when they cease being a Colts age group player and move into Senior rugby. Colts who also play senior rugby are still “children”.

Action to take if you have a safeguarding concern

Please report any concerns that you may have about child welfare to the Devizes RFC Safeguarding Team. All reports of suspicions of harm and safeguarding concerns will be treated as absolutely confidential and will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately. You can report a concern by e.mail to safeguarding@devizesrfc.org.uk or you can contact the Club Safeguarding Team by telephone or in person.

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