

RFU Safeguarding Policy

Statement on Safeguarding

The RFU is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children in rugby. We have worked closely with the Child Protection In Sport Unit (CPSU) and NSPCC to develop robust policy and procedures to safeguard children, achieving the NSPCC & CPSU's National Advanced Standards for safeguarding and protecting children in sport. We work closely with all our clubs and statutory agencies to ensure that safeguarding children is prioritised. Any allegation, suspicion of harm or concern is taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.

Background information

The RFU Safeguarding Policy Guidance & Procedures sets out the key principles as well as providing best practice guidance.

Regulation 21 Safeguarding <http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/regulations/>

- The RFU has a full time professional Safeguarding Team including a Designated Lead Officer for safeguarding. The RFU works with Local Children Safeguarding Boards throughout England.
- RFU processes on average 13, 500 DBS (Disclosure and Barring checks – formerly CRB checks) per season (1st August to 31st July).
- 21.1.1 The RFU has jurisdiction to deal with any allegation of abuse of a child any breach of Safeguarding Policy and or any breach of Regulation 21.
- 21.4.4 Each club with a mini and or junior section must have a Club Safeguarding Officer (FYI over 900 rugby clubs have a youth section).
- 21.1.3 Any person involved in Rugby Union must report all safeguarding concerns of which they become aware to the RFU Safeguarding Team .

Who exactly in the club game has to go through the DBS procedure?

Broadly speaking, this means those people who have regular supervision of children. We take the view that any person coaching children at a club falls within this category.

Do you have a dedicated helpline in place ?

Not at the moment – the safeguarding team deal directly with any relevant callers and have the right level of experience to deal with any concerns and make the necessary referrals. All contact details of the RFU Safeguarding Team including a RFU Safeguarding telephone line are on the RFU website . We also promote the general NSPCC helpline on our website which is a Freephone 24/7 number, direct link to the websites of Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and CPSU..