



Safeguarding Policy

1. Woodbridge Rugby Union Football Club (WRUFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in Woodbridge from harm.
2. WRUFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor policy.
3. A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17 year old male player is playing in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure his safety and wellbeing are protected.
4. The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Policy are that:
 - The welfare of the child is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations.
 - All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse or harm.
 - All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
 - Working in partnership with other organisations, statutory agencies, parents, carers, children and young people is essential for the welfare of children.
 - Children have a right to expect support/personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited/vetted coach, who will be managed in relation to their participation in rugby union when playing/volunteering/officiating in the community or professional areas of the sport.
5. WRUFC recognises that all children have the right to participate in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect and harm, and poor practice. WRUFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.
6. WRUFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.
7. The Club Safeguarding Officer is Chris Gordon Mob:07824643284 Email: safeguarding@woodbridgerugby.net

Associate Safeguarding Officers:

Alison Chaplin - 075156755724

Neil Montgomery – Mob: 07884498586

Connie Howe – Mob: 07833 949295

If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child has been put at risk you must, in the first instance, inform the Club Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the CB Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Team. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform the club chairman and either the Eastern Counties Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

8. All members of WRUFC who work with children in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21.
9. WRUFC will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents, players or officials will comply with the Best Practice Guidance as issued by the RFU. In summary, the following are **NOT** acceptable and will be treated seriously by the club and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the club, the CB or the RFU:
 - Working alone with a child.
 - Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children.
 - Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
 - Smoking in the presence of children.
 - Bullying and humiliating children.
 - Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child.
 - Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children.
 - Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust.'
 - Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.
11. WRUFC manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by two DBS checked adults of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. WRUFC ensures that all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same time, using the same facilities as children.
12. WRUFC will ensure that its coaches will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role. The RFU "Managing Challenging Behaviour" Policy has been adopted and circulated amongst the club workforce both, voluntary and paid.
13. Any events held on WRUFC premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate a Safeguarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected. Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by WRUFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.
14. The WRUFC website and Facebook pages are monitored by an appropriately vetted club official. Any email or written communication will be sent via the parent. If an email is sent to a number of parents, the 'bcc' mode should be used to copy in. Please see Mobile and on-line Communication with Children Policy.
15. Anyone wishing to take photographs or videos during training, a game or after should seek permission of all involved. The exception is our club photographer who will be at the club and sometimes at away games in an official capacity. If you do not wish for your child to be photographed for club purposes please let the safeguarding officer know.

Please note: A responsible adult whether the parent or an appointed other should be present at all times when a child under 14 years is engaged in activity at Woodbridge Rugby Club or when representing the club at an away fixture. Children 15 and 16 years of age, parents will be required to sign a form that gives a member of the club responsibility if it is required in the case of injury to act on their behalf. If this obligation is not respected unfortunately the child will be withdrawn from the game/training that he/she is involved in. The club cannot act in locum parentis.

Please contact us if you have any questions. There will always be a duty safeguarding officer at the club on a Sunday morning. If there is any concern at an away match or festival please contact a safeguarding officer as soon as it is possible.

Thank you. Chrissie Gordon.