



## OCRFC SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Our clubs Safeguarding (Child Welfare) info and Safeguarding team contacts can be found at <https://www.ocrfc.co.uk/club/safeguarding/>

1. Old Colfeians Rugby Football Club (OCRFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in OCRFC from harm. OCRFC recognises that everyone has a responsibility to protect children from child abuse and themselves from wrongful accusations.
2. OCRFC adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy, procedures, practices and guidelines and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor policy: <https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding>
3. OCRFC abides by the RFU Regulations: <https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/rules-and-regulations/regulations> and our Safeguarding Policy works in conjunction with the RFU's Age Grade Regulation 15 and the RFU's Safeguarding Regulation 21 - detailing how safeguarding concerns will be managed and also the requirements of the RFU's DBS process.
4. A "child" means anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity together with any coach/volunteer under 18.
5. The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Policy are that:
  - the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult 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 and young people.
  - children have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by appropriately recruited, and vetted personnel and properly managed in relation to their participation in rugby union.
6. OCRFC 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, harm and poor practice. OCRFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved in the club



7. The contact details of our current Club Safeguarding Officer can be found at:

<https://www.ocrfc.co.uk/club/safeguarding/>

If you witness, or are aware of an incident, where the welfare of a child has been put at risk or you yourself have been put in a compromising situation by a child, you must, in the first instance, inform the Club Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the CB (Constituent Body) Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Team as necessary

If an incident involves any of the Clubs Safeguarding team you should instead inform any of the clubs Chairman or Vice Chairs and either the CB Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

#### 8. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

- 8.1. All members of OCRFC RFC who work with children in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with the RFU's Safeguarding Regulation 21.
- 8.2. **BEFORE** a DBS application can be initiated by our Club Safeguarding Team, **ALL** Volunteers **MUST** complete 2 online courses - The RFU's online '**elearning - Introduction to Safeguarding**' and the RFU's Concussion awareness course '**Headcase**'. **BOTH** qualifications need to be showing on the volunteers GMS profile before the system will permit the club to initiate a DBS check.
- 8.3. Prospective volunteers who are awaiting the results of their DBS check they will not be able to deliver any services directly to children or vulnerable adults until the check has proven to be satisfactory. All info and guidance on completing the courses, submitting a DBS application and becoming a volunteer at OCRFC can be found at: <https://www.ocrfc.co.uk/volunteering/>
9. OCRFC will ensure that its volunteers receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role. The RFU "Managing Challenging Behaviour" Policy has also been adopted by OCRFC and can be found in the VOLUNTEERS HANDBOOK.
10. OCRFC will implement and comply with the RFU Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.
11. The OCRFC Safeguarding Policy works in conjunction with the Clubs Photographic & Video Policy. Parental consent is part of the GMS Player Registration process and can be amended at any time from the parents GMS Login.
12. The OCRFC Safeguarding Policy works in conjunction with our policy for Websites and Social Media which reflects the policy as set out on the RFU website.



13. OCRFC requires all coaches, parents, players, and officials to comply with the Best Practice Guidance as issued by the RFU and OCRFC's own policies. In summary, the following are NOT acceptable and will be treated seriously by OCRFC and may result in disciplinary action being taken by OCRFC, the CB or the RFU: (This list is not exhaustive)
  - Working alone with a child, or vulnerable adult(s).
  - Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or vulnerable adults.
  - Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
  - Smoking in the presence of children.
  - Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.
  - Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children or vulnerable adults.
  - Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or vulnerable adult developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust.'
  - Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.
14. OCRFC will ensure 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 or vulnerable adults.
15. Any events held on OCRFC 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 OCRFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.
16. No player may play adult rugby (or train with adults) until he or she has reached their 18th birthday - **EXCEPTION: U17's Playing Adult Rugby (Applies to both training and matches)**

A male or female player can play/train in adult contact rugby when they reach their seventeenth birthday provided the following conditions from the [RFU regulation 15](#) are met as outlined in regulation 15.6 which was amended in August 2019:

- (a) the player does not train or play in the front row of the contested scrum. Once a player has reached the age of 18, the player may play in any position;
- (b) the RFU Safeguarding Policy and RFU Regulation 21 are complied with;
- (c) the Club has an appointed Safeguarding Officer and is approved by its Constituent Body to play 17 year olds in adult rugby for the season by completing the Playing Adult Rugby – Club Approval Form
- (d) the player has been assessed, as capable of playing with adults and the assessment has been countersigned and approved by the Constituent Body to play adult rugby until their 18th birthday by completing the Playing Adult Rugby – Player Approval Form

**This policy is adopted in line with our Clubs Constitution.**