



Pewsey Vale RFC Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults in the sport. Everybody is entitled to feel safe and protected from any form of abuse and neglect and have the right to take part in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment.

Pewsey Vale Rugby Football Club (PVRFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in the club from harm.

PVRFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy¹ and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor policy.

PVRFC recognises that all children and vulnerable adults 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. PVRFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.

For the purpose of this document 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 male adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure his safety and wellbeing are protected.

A vulnerable adult as a person who is aged 18 or over that is or may need community care services because of a disability (mental or other), age or illness and is someone who could be unable to look after themselves or protect themselves from harm or exploitation.

Key Principles

The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Policy are that:

¹ RFU REGULATION 21 – SAFEGUARDING

- 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 and vulnerable adults.
- Such persons have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted and managed in relation to their participation in rugby union, whether they are playing, volunteering or officiating in the community or professional areas of the sport.

Best Practice

PVRFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.

The Club Safeguarding Officer is **TIM ATKINS** email timothy.atkins@ymail.com or the Dorset & Wilts representative Julie Boddington Tel 07445 010701. If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child or adults 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 Youth Head Coach, Vernon Smith, and either the CB Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

All members of PVRFC who work with children and or vulnerable adults in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21. A regulated activity means the statutory definition of the term as set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (as amended) that for the PVRFC purposes shall be construed as meaning: (a) any coaching and training of children; and/or (b) any teaching, instruction, care or supervision of children, carried out by the same person frequently (once a week or more often), or on four or more days in a 30 day period, or overnight; and/or (c) members of the club who have access to people data within GMS.

PVRFC manages the changing facilities for Juniors and arranges for them to be supervised by two DBS checked adults of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. PVRFC 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.

PVRFC 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 volunteer group.

It is expected that all persons involved in coaching and safeguarding should complete the eLearning introduction to safeguarding course. Such training to be recorded on the person’s GMS profile.

Any events held on PVRFC 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 PVRFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.

Unacceptable Behaviours

PVRFC 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.
- Humiliating children.
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child.
- Whenever training takes place involving a group that includes a mix of children and adults, all coaches will ensure that the training and any games played are appropriate and safe.
- 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.

PVRFC Committee