

Southport Rugby Football Club Safeguarding Policy

1. Southport Rugby Football Club RFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in Southport RFC from harm.
2. Southport RFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.
3. A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17-year-old male/female 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 is essential for the welfare of children.
 - Children 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.

5. Southport RFC will ensure that children can participate in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice.
6. Southport RFC that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.
7. Southport RFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.
8. Southport RFC has a Safeguarding Lead who is a member of the Board. The Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring that the Board is equipped to fulfil its safeguarding responsibilities and 11.
9. Southport RFC has a Safeguarding Officer. If someone witnesses or is aware of an incident where the welfare of a child has been put at risk they must, in the first instance, inform the Club Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the Lancashire Rugby Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Team. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer the Safeguarding Lead or Club Chair should inform the Lancashire Rugby Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Team.
10. All members of Southport RFC who work with children in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21.
11. Southport RFC will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents/carers, 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.
 - Smoking whilst responsible for children.
 - 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.

12. Southport RFC 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. Southport RFC 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.

13. Southport RFC will ensure that its coaches and team managers 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.

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

This policy has been adopted in accordance with the club constitution.

Signed Date 13/07/2020

Chair of the Club.

Additional information

Club Safeguarding Roles

The Club Safeguarding Lead is Brendan Boyce

The Club Safeguarding Officer is Neil Bayliff – supported by Gill Mitchell

Useful Contacts

*County Based (CB) Lancashire Rugby Safeguarding Lead Carol Baker.
safeguarding@lancashirerugby.com*

Rugby Football Union Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@rfu.com

*Sefton Children's Social Care on 0345 140 0845 or out of hours service on 0151
934 3555*

NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or by email to help@nspcc.org.uk

Childline on 0800 1111

Merseyside Police on 101 or in an emergency 999