

Complaints Policy & Procedure

Rossendale Rugby Club welcomes views of members and others involved in its activities, whether in the form of constructive comment, critical concern, or a complaint where we may have fallen short.

Complaints Policy

This policy tells you how to make a complaint at Rossendale Rugby Union Football Club.

It explains the procedures that we will follow if your complaint is about someone's conduct or behaviour. This could be because you think that someone has behaved in a way that is unsafe, discriminatory, offensive, unlawful, intimidating, or is in any other way against the Rules, the Articles, or the Policies of the Club.

Values and principles

You have the right to complain: we take complaints seriously. You should not be harassed, bullied or put at a disadvantage because you make a complaint. We will try to treat you with tact and courtesy.

Equality: you should receive a proper response to your complaint, regardless of your age, gender, disability, race, religion, nationality, social status, sexual orientation or political persuasion.

Fairness: we believe that complaints should be dealt with fairly and openly. Unless it would put other people at risk, those affected by a complaint should have a chance to contribute and respond to any investigation.

Safety and welfare take priority: we will always give priority to concerns that affect safety and welfare. Issues affecting children will be treated very seriously.

Confidentiality: we treat complaints as confidentially as possible. Sometimes we have to discuss complaints with other organisations. If we are worried about a risk to a person or to the public, we might need to pass on our concerns to the right authorities. If necessary, we will get advice from other organisations such as the Police, Social Services or the RFU.

How to make a complaint?

If you have a complaint, it may be best to start by having a conversation with someone at Rossendale Rugby Union Football Club. A good first contact would be one of the committee. The Chairman and the Secretary have broad responsibilities for the running of the Club and oversee the work of the committee, and other members have particular areas of interest: finances, senior rugby, junior rugby, and the buildings and material assets of the Club. – consider who would be the best official to discuss your concern with?

They may be able to help to resolve your problem: we would always seek an informal resolution to any complaint in the first instance.

If you decide to take things further you will normally be asked to put your complaint in writing. Please include your name (and the name of your organisation if you are not a Club member), the date of the events leading to the complaint, and the details of what happened.

[While we will consider anonymous complaints these are difficult to investigate properly: we would be unable to respect all the values and principles listed above.]

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What will we do to investigate?

We will name a senior member of the Club as the Lead Official in a particular complaint and tell you who this is; this will not be someone already connected to your complaint.

We will try to give an initial response to your complaint as soon as possible, and aim to do this within two weeks.

We will investigate your complaint fairly. This means that we will discuss the complaint with all of the relevant people.

We will gather relevant information. Sometimes we will reveal information from the investigation to other people to allow them to respond, but we will consider whether doing so would affect someone's safety or welfare. Please tell us if you have any such concerns yourself.

How will I know what is happening?

The Lead Official will explain the process, and answer questions or concerns that you have. You will be given regular updates. If there are delays we will keep you informed.

When we get to a conclusion we will report back to you, including about how you could be affected by any action we will be taking.

What are the possible outcomes or results of my complaint?

Where we can resolve problems informally the outcome might include:

- A change in arrangements for particular activities
- An explanation or apology
- An agreement to communicate or to act differently in future

Where there has been a formal complaint a panel of board members will consider the information gathered by the Lead Official.

The first task will be to decide if the complaint is upheld and how bad any failure had been.

Where the complaint is upheld we will apologise, tell you what went wrong, and what we will do to put things right. This could include:

Formal disciplinary action against a member or against an employee;

A change in Club policy or procedures;

A decision to refer the case to another organisation such as the RFU, Police, or Social Services.