

## Health & Safety Policy

Widnes Rugby Union Football Club recognise their responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all employees, volunteers, and club members.

It is the Club's policy to do all that is reasonable to prevent personal injury and damage to property and to protect all persons, including members of the general public, from foreseeable hazards insofar as they come into contact with at the Club.

WRUFC recognise that it is their duty to:-

- provide and maintain safe and healthy conditions, taking into account any statutory requirements for club members, coaches and volunteers
- provide appropriate instruction and training to enable club members and volunteers to undertake activities safely, with advice from sports coaches;
- advise club members and volunteers about any necessary safety devices and protective equipment and to supervise their use as far as possible, using guidance provided by relevant sports coaches.
- endeavour to provide a safe and secure environment, and the management committee or sports coach retain the right to ask any club member displaying behaviour likely to cause harm to others or property to leave the club. Parents/carers must sign an agreement on joining the club that they are aware that the Committee and Officials of the Club do not accept any liability for any accident or mishap that may occur at sports sessions, or at any other time.
- maintain a constant and on-going interest in health and safety matters which are applicable to the Club activities;
- ensure, as far as is possible, that the conditions of hire for venues are complied with.
- provide and maintain an environment that is, so far as is reasonably practical, safe, without risk to health and safety, and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for the club's activities.

WRUFC further recognises that club members, their parents/carers, coaches and volunteers equally have a duty under the law to exercise personal responsibility and to do everything practical to prevent injury to themselves and others by:

- undertaking activities safely and efficiently;
- using the appropriate protective equipment recommended and meeting all statutory obligations;
- immediately reporting incidents that have led or may lead to injury of persons or damage to property;
- strictly adhering to the Club's Policies and Procedures, and membership agreements
- assisting in the investigation of accidents with the objectives of upgrading existing measures or introducing new measures to prevent a recurrence;
- fulfilling the duty to refrain from the wilful misuse or interference with protective equipment which has been provided by the Multi Club in the interest of health and safety and welfare, and to take reasonable care in any action which might endanger themselves or others.

- ensuring that appropriate insurance covers any equipment used on behalf of the Club
- complying with policies relating to child protection and vulnerable adults

The Club may endeavour to hire venues that are safe, without risk to health, and are adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their activities.

It shall be the duty of every member of the management committee whilst present at coaching sessions to:-

- undertake reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves;
- undertake reasonable care for the health and safety of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions;
- cooperate with staff at the venue, or the sports coach, or any other person, or any of the relevant statutory provisions so far as is necessary, to enable that duty or requirement to be performed or complied with.

It is the duty of persons designing, manufacturing, importing or supplying sports equipment used or purchased by the Club to:-

- ensure they are safe without risk to health when properly used;
- carry out tests or examinations as may be necessary to ensure they are safe and without risk to health when properly used;
- provide any information necessary to ensure they are safe without risk to health when properly used;
- enable anyone erecting or installing articles for use with the club to ensure they are safe and without risk to health when properly used.

The Management Committee is responsible for:

- investigating accidents, assessing possible causes of injury and circumstances likely to produce accidents, and the tendering of reports and advice to prevent recurrence;
- developing, revising and, when necessary, updating the organisation's policies and procedures to ensure compliance with all relevant health, safety and environmental legislation.

### **Statutory Provisions**

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 there is a common duty on all persons at work to operate in a safe manner, and this duty is enforceable at law. The breach of the relevant statutory provisions is a criminal offence. Employees may be liable to prosecution as may other persons (e.g. manufacturers) who are in breach of any duty imposed upon them by such statutory provisions. The Club and any employee who endangers the health and safety of any other person is liable to prosecution, irrespective of whether their conduct is a breach of any specific rule or not. Neglect of any H&S requirements is regarded as a serious matter.



### **Collective responsibilities**

The effective implementation of the Club's Health and Safety Policy requires a participation of all club members/responsible adults/coaches and volunteers, although the overall responsibility lies with the management committee. The Club Management committee accepts that this accountability forms an integral and essential part of their executive responsibilities, ranking equally with all other commitments and objectives.

### **Health and Safety Policy - Implementation**

The Club Management committee is responsible for the effective implementation of the Health and Safety Policy by:

- keeping themselves informed of all the incidents of accidents occurring during coaching sessions, to club members, volunteers, coaches and to other persons;
- keeping under review all safety measures, instructions, training and to ensure the health and safety and welfare of all club members, volunteers, coaches and other persons during coaching sessions.
- being available to receive safety delegates and to attend safety meetings as required.
- This policy will be reviewed annually.

### **Accident Statistics and Reporting Procedures**

The Club will maintain all necessary accident statistics and monitor and, where appropriate, improve existing reporting procedures.

### **First Aid Arrangements**

The Club will ensure that a minimum of one coach per team will seek to obtain a qualification in first aid, and have a first aid kit available for the use of club members.

An accident book is available at every session to record details of occurrences.

**Widnes RUFC  
Management Committee**

**1 January 2008**