URFC Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults

Policy updated July 2017

* Uckfield Rugby Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved with the club from harm.
* Uckfield RFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union’s Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, practices and guidelines and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document.
* By law and policy 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 adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure his safety and wellbeing are protected.
* Uckfield RFC 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 or neglect. Uckfield Rugby Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.
* Uckfield RFC complies with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.
* Uckfield RFC follows and adheres to the Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy are that:

1. The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult (as appropriate) is, and must always be, paramount in any other considerations.
2. 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.
3. All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
4. Working in partnership with other organisations, statutory agencies, parents, carers, children and young people is essential for the welfare of children and young people.
5. Children have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted and managed personnel, in relation to their participation in rugby union, whether they are playing, volunteering or officiating in the community or professional areas of the sport.

* The Club Safeguarding Officer is Amy Clark. If you are concerned about a child or vulnerable adult please contact her on 07921854681 or amy.clark20@hotmail.com.

Guidelines for reporting a child protection concern, incident or allegation

* Listen, stay calm and reassure the child/vulnerable person. Make sure you take what they say seriously and they know you believe them.
* Do not make any promises, especially that you will not tell anyone what they tell you.
* Ensure you know clearly what the child is telling you and write this down at the earliest possible opportunity recording the date, time and keep a record for yourself. Complete the URFC initial concern report and return to the Club Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible.
* Do not ask leading questions or make assumptions. Allow the person to tell you without question or providing a reason for what may have happened. Do not suggest ideas.
* Inform the Club Safeguarding 0fficer at the earliest opportunity. Do not share the information with anyone else to protect the person and confidentially.
* Ensure the immediate safety of the child.

What should be reported and who too

Please inform the Club Safeguarding Officer if you have

* General concerns about a child’s welfare
* Concerns related to a safeguarding incident eg bullying or poor practice
* Concerns, Suspicions or allegations of misconduct
* Breaches of the RFU Core Values or your club Code of Conduct
* Allegations of abuse made by or against any child or adult
* If you are ever concerned or have a suspicion and don’t know what to do please contact the Club Safeguarding Officer.

**If you have a concern or you are worried about a child’s immediate safety – contact the Club Safeguarding Officer, Local Authority Children Services team and the police if required.**

Contact details

East Sussex Children’s Services, Mon-Fri 9-5pm 01323 464222 Out of these working hours 0345 608 0192

Club Safeguarding Officer, Amy Clark 07921854681, [amy.clark20@hotmail.com](mailto:amy.clark20@hotmail.com)

Chairman, Gordon Buckland 07545533401, [gbucklandgtb@aol.com](mailto:gbucklandgtb@aol.com)

**Initial Issue/Concern Reporting Form**

Name of child/adult:

Gender:

Age/DOB:

Address:

What is the concern?

When and where did this concern/incident occur?

Any other comments

Your Name:

Club:

Club role:

Address:

Contact Number:

Contact Email:

**Please return to amy.clark20@hotmail.com**