



St. Brendan's Old Boys' R.F.C. Limited

Members of the Bristol Rugby Combination

Affiliated to the G.R.F.U



Safeguarding Policy

St Brendan's RFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in the club. St Brendan's RFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines. Link to the RFU Safeguarding Children Policy below:

[RFU Safeguarding Children Policy](#)

A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. Where a 17 year old player is playing in the adult game every reasonable precaution will be taken to ensure their safety and wellbeing are also protected.

The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy are that:

- The welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is, and must always be, paramount to any other consideration.
- 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 young people.

The Club recognises that all children and young people 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. This is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the Club.



Codes of Conduct

St Brendan's RFC follows the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials. These are summarised in the Club's "Ethics and Expectations" document, available in printed form from the Club's Safeguarding Officer.



Incident Reporting

The Club Safeguarding Officer and Assistant Safeguarding Officers are published on the Club's website. Anyone witnessing or aware of an incident where the welfare of a child, young person or vulnerable adult has been put at risk must in the first instance inform the



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Club Safeguarding Officer or an Assistant Safeguarding Officer. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer the Club Chairman should be informed and also either the Gloucester RFU Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Executive.



DBS Checks

All members of St Brendan's RFC who have a regular supervisory contact with children or a management responsibility for those working with children must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Full details can be found at the RFU:

<https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/disclosure-and-barring-service>



Safeguarding Best Practice

St Brendan's RFC will ensure that all coaches, volunteers, and officials comply with the Safeguarding 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, Gloucester RFU or the RFU:

Working alone with a children or young people.

Consuming alcohol or smoking whilst working with children or young people.

Inappropriate use of phone, email, communications (electronic and other) and social media in relation to children or young people.

Providing alcohol to children or young people or allowing its supply.

Humiliating children or young people.

Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games between adults and children or young people.

Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child, young person or vulnerable adult developed as a result of being in a "position of trust".

Making sexually explicit comments to, or sharing sexually explicit material with children or young people.



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Changing Facilities

St Brendan's RFC ensures that all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not use the changing facilities at the same time as children, young people or vulnerable adults. When in use by children or young people only DBS checked coaches may enter the changing rooms for safeguarding or safety issues only.



Safeguarding Training

St Brendan's RFC will provide its coaches and volunteers with the support and safeguarding training required for their position and role. Coaches and Volunteers must ensure they attend this training.



Events

Any events held on St Brendan's RFC premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate a Safeguarding Plan specific to that event should be discussed and circulated to those affected.



Tours

Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by St Brendan's RFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours. All Tours must be notified to the RFU in advance and all overseas tours require RFU approval in advance. Tour organisers should contact the Club Safeguarding Officer in the first instance and complete a Health and Safety assessment. Link to RFU Touring with Children booklet below:

[RFU Touring with Children](#)



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Bullying

St Brendan's RFC adheres to the RFU anti bullying policy, a copy of which can be found at the bottom of this page.

St Brendan's RFC believes the club should be committed to providing a playing and training environment free from bullying and harassment, and one in which bullying and harassment is not tolerated in any of its forms. Any harassment of a member of the club, by another player, member or official is not acceptable and should be dealt with.

The Club encourages the reporting of all incidents, of harassment, to the Club Safeguarding Officer.

[RFU Anti Bullying Policy](#)



17 Year Olds Playing Adult Rugby

The RFU has been required to introduce a new system of application and endorsement for 17 year olds to play adult rugby. An application must be sent to the GRFU before any 17 year old can be permitted to play adult rugby. GRFU has created on-line forms for both these application processes. Details of the new processes, conditions to be fulfilled, and links to appropriate reference documents and the online forms can be found on the link below. Before any application is submitted to GRFU, the individual case should be discussed between the proposing age group coach, parent or guardian and the club Safeguarding Officer.

[GRFU 17 Year Olds Playing Adult Rugby](#)

The Club's Safeguarding Officer is Cathy Dodsworth. She can be contacted on 07968 321310, or via safeguarding@sbobrfc.co.uk