



Eastleigh Rugby Football Club

Parental Attendance Policy

2023-2024

Approved:	11 th September 2023
Review Date:	August 2024

Parents and carers play a big role in encouraging children to take part, and stay in rugby. A parent / carer's input can be incredibly influential in helping their child to live a healthy and active lifestyle. The presence of parents/ carers can also help children feel safer at the club.

Unless stated otherwise it is the responsibility of the parent / carer to transport the child to and from rugby activities, whether that be training or fixtures at home or away. We recognise that parents make private arrangements between themselves to help manage drop off and collection duties. These arrangements are made solely at the discretion of the parents and carer involved. It is important that parents / carers inform the team manager of such arrangements.

Parent Attendance

It is expected that for U6s, U7s, U8, U9s, U10s, U11s and U12s, that parents / carers remain at the club whilst the children are training / playing. It is noted that often where there is more than 1 child training, that parents may move between groups and also into the club house. If this is the case, please inform the manager that you are on site and where you will be. Please do not wander away from the pitch side without informing the manager or a coach of your whereabouts.

In some instances, children who are playing in U13s and upwards may make their own way to and from training or matches. It is important that parents have given consent for this and that the child is comfortable with this arrangement. The responsibility for a child's safety and wellbeing when traveling remains the responsibility of the parent / carers and they should ensure that they are contactable in case of emergency.

Managers must be aware of any children who have been given consent to make their own way home from training / matches.

Contact Information

It is important that parents / carers ensure that their contact information, especially mobile phone numbers are up to date and that there is a secondary contact for emergency.

Late Collection

Children in U6 to U12 should not be left unattended at Rugby. For those that are older, if parents / carer's are late to collect their child, they should ensure that they make every effort to contact the club to let them know of their delay. This should be done as soon as the parent / carer is aware that they are going to be late.

If a parent / carer is late for a collection, then the manager or coach will:

- Attempt to contact the parent/ carer directly by phone.
- Wait with the child. There will always be two RDU DBS vetted volunteers waiting with the child.
- Notify the club safeguarding officer immediately. All managers have the Club safeguarding officers mobile number and this is also available in the Eastleigh RFU Clubhouse.

- Remind parents / carers of their responsibility to collect their child promptly when they do arrive to collect.
- The club will make a note of the late collection which will be logged by the Safeguarding Officer. Any patterns in lateness can be as sign of neglect and will if necessary be followed up accordingly.

No Collection

The club will wait a maximum of 30 minutes after the end of a training session or match. If a parent / carer does not show up to collect their child from rugby and the club have exhausted all steps above, the Safeguarding Officer will consider calling Childrens Services and the police to notify of an abandoned child. This is if no contact can be made with the parent / carer or other contacts listed.

The club will ensure that they ensure supervision of the child and will offer support to the child as needed as the situation may become distressing. Where possible the club will also check with the child if there is anyone else that can be contacted.

Once the Safeguarding Officer has spoken to Childrens Service, they will liaise with them about collection of the child and will record all steps taken including timing.

Eastleigh RFU volunteers that have been vetted and DBS checked are NOT allowed to transport children under any circumstance other than their own children or by private arrangement. The club is not able to take children home who have not been collected.

Engaging with Parents

The club prides itself on engaging with parents in as many ways as possible. There is a regular newsletter sent to parents, private Facebook groups for each group and managers and coaches can contact parents through PitchHero.

Parents / carers are encouraged to liaise with managers and coaches to help support their child with rugby experience.

Parents / Carers and Eastleigh RFU volunteers can contact the Safeguarding Officer, Sharon Taylor on safeguarding@erfcjuniors.co.uk if they have any concerns. A contact number is available in the club house.

Signed: 

Sharon Taylor

Club Safeguarding Officer

14th August 2023