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Dear Clubs,

Following several incidents last season I wish to reiterate to you all that there should be **no** drinking of any alcohol for anyone under the age of 18. This includes both at home/away games; Saturdays or Sundays and including all Tours whether they are here or abroad.

It should also be noted that there should be **no** drinking games of any kind whether it involves alcohol or not. This includes soft drinks. This also includes handing children a bottle for post match celebrations.

We are all aware that drinking is part of the rugby culture for adults however; children should not be encouraged, allowed or have the drinking culture forced upon them in anyway.

Clubs should note the section below which can be found in the RFU Safeguarding Policy under Best Practice Guidance:

Alcohol

It is important that all rugby clubs' management committees take considered, positive action to ensure that they are responsible licensees.

It is against the law:

- *To sell alcohol to someone under 18*
- *For an adult to buy or attempt to buy alcohol on behalf of someone under 18*
- *For someone under 18 to buy alcohol, attempt to buy alcohol or to be sold alcohol*
- *For someone under 18 to drink alcohol in licensed premises, with one exception - 16 and 17 year olds accompanied by an adult can drink but not buy beer, wine and cider with a table meal*
- *For an adult to buy alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on licensed premises, except as above*

Please take note of the above and ensure that all your Coaches, Team Managers, Committee and Parents are aware and most importantly that all your players adhere to it. All should be aware as the consumption of alcohol and use of drinking games was highlighted at the East Midlands AGM and East Midlands Mini/Junior AGM.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone numbers. This is something that East Midlands is taking positive steps to reinforce.

Regards

Steve Minney
CB Safeguarding Manager