

Chipping Sodbury Rugby Football Club.

Safeguarding Policy 2023-24

1. Chipping Sodbury Rugby Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in Chipping Sodbury RFC from harm.

2. Chipping Sodbury RFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor policy.

3. A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17-year-old male / female player is playing in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure his safety and wellbeing are protected.

3a. A vulnerable adult is defined as a person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

4. The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Policy are that:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations.**
- 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 organisation's, statutory agencies, parents, careers, children and young people is essential for the welfare of children.**
- Children or a vulnerable adult have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted and managed in relation to their participation in rugby union, whether they are playing, volunteering or officiating in the community or professional areas of the sport.**

5. Chipping Sodbury RFC recognise's that all children or a vulnerable adult 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.

Chipping Sodbury RFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.

6. Chipping Sodbury RFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.

7. The Club Safeguarding Officer is Stephen Carter, if you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child has been put at risk you must, in the first instance, inform the Club Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the CB Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Team. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding officer you should inform the Chairman and either the CB Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

8. All members of Chipping Sodbury RFC who work with children in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21.

9. Chipping Sodbury RFC will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents, players or officials will comply with the 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, the CB or the RFU:

- Working alone with a child or vulnerable adult.**
- Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or vulnerable adult.**
- Providing alcohol to children or vulnerable adult or allowing its supply.**
- Smoking in the presence of children or a vulnerable adult.**
- Humiliating children or vulnerable adult.**
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.**
- Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children or vulnerable adult.**
- Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or vulnerable adult developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust.'**
- Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.**

10. Chipping Sodbury RFC manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by two DBS checked adults of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. Chipping Sodbury RFC ensures that all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same time, using the same facilities as children.

11. Chipping Sodbury RFC will ensure that its coaches [and team managers] will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role. The RFU "Managing Challenging Behavior" Policy has been adopted and circulated amongst the club workforce both, voluntary and paid.

12. Any events held on Chipping Sodbury RFC premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate a Safeguarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected. Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by Chipping Sodbury RFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.

Signed Stephen Carter

Date 01-08-2023

