

Affiliated to the R.F.U. and D.R.F.U.

# **BIDEFORD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

## **Safeguarding Children Policy**

Version 2.4 – Reviewed – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024



## **BIDEFORD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB Safeguarding Officer**

**Adrian Scarrett – [safeguardingbrfc@gmail.com](mailto:safeguardingbrfc@gmail.com)**



[www.bidefordrugby.co.uk](http://www.bidefordrugby.co.uk)

Bideford Rugby Football Club Limited

A company registered in England and Wales with Company Number 7405970

Registered office: 64 High Street, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2AR



## **Safeguarding Policy**

**This policy sits in line with the full England Rugby Safeguarding Children Policy**

([safeguardingpolicybooklet.pdf \(englandrugby.com\)](#)) and has been adopted by Bideford RFC along with the full policy on the date below.

1. Bideford Rugby Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in rugby and rugby-related activities at Bideford RFC from harm.
2. Bideford RFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor policy. *( A copy of this full policy is attached)*
3. 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.
4. The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Policy are that:
  - The welfare of the child 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 organisations, statutory agencies, parents, carers, children and young people is essential for the welfare of children.
  - Children 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. Bideford 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, neglect, harm and poor practice. Bideford RFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.
6. Bideford RFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate. *(Copies attached below)*
7. The Club Safeguarding Officer is Adrian Scarrett (Contact details are on the front page of this policy) . 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 Junior Chairperson (Phill Mason) and either the CB Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.
8. All members of Bideford 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. Bideford 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.
- Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children.
- Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
- Smoking in the presence of children.
- Humiliating children or using foul and abusive language.
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child.
- Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children.
- Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust.'
- Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.

10. Bideford 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. Bideford 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. Bideford RFC will ensure that its coaches (and team managers) will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role. The latest NSPCC Child protection in Sport Unit "Managing Challenging Behaviour" Guidance (January 2022) has been adopted and circulated amongst the club workforce both, voluntary and paid. *(Guidance attached below for circulation to all workforce)*

12. Any events held on Bideford 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 Bideford RFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours. There may be a number of other points clubs may wish to add to this policy to take into account any matters which are specific to their club, ie if it is on a public site there may be additional safety issues. Clubs should not delete any of the above. This must be adopted in accordance with the club constitution.

13. Bideford RFC adopts the RFU Photography and Use of Imagery Guidance *(attached below)* as an Appendix to this policy.

14. Bideford RFC acknowledges that player safety is paramount and remains the highest priority of the Club. Poor behaviour and breaches of the Players' Code of Conduct cannot be tolerated as it endangers players and puts unacceptable pressure on our committed volunteers who give up their time freely to coach rugby. The protocol for a breach in this Code of Conduct is attached (Appendix 1)

Signed ..... Date .....

CONTACT LIST:

First point of contact (Bideford RFC);	Adrian Scarrett (Club Safeguarding Officer) <a href="mailto:safeguardingbrfc@gmail.com">safeguardingbrfc@gmail.com</a> 07907890898 <a href="mailto:paullamanna1@hotmail.com">mailto:paullamanna1@hotmail.com</a>
Or	Claire Morgan Safeguarding Team member <a href="mailto:bidefordjnrrugby@btinternet.com">bidefordjnrrugby@btinternet.com</a>
Nearest Police station with responsibility for general enquiries.	Devon & Cornwall Constabulary Bideford Police Station New Rd, Bideford, Devon EX39 2BW  Tel: <b>101</b>
Devon County unit with responsibility for Child Protection.	MASH Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Tel: <b>0345 155 1071</b> email: <a href="mailto:mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk">mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk</a>
RFU Safeguarding Team	RFU Child Protection Helpline: 0208 8316679 <a href="mailto:richarddrake@rfu.com">richarddrake@rfu.com</a>
RFU Devon Team	Devon County Board Safeguarding Manager: Sharon Higginson  Tel: 07827249158  Email: <a href="mailto:sharonrooke95@yahoo.co.uk">sharonrooke95@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Child line UK	0800 11 11 (24 Hour)
NSPCC	0800 800 500 (24 Hour)

## **FURTHER READING**

**BRFC has adopted all RFU guidance and policy into its own policies which can be found on: <http://www.rfu.com> particularly:**

RFU Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable adults in Rugby Union; Policy & Guidance  
Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Photographs & Images of Children briefing and policy  
Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Safe recruitment in sport briefing and policy  
Child protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Managing Challenging Behaviour briefing and policy  
Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Tour Policy

### **Also hard copies available from:**

Rugby House  
Twickenham Stadium  
200 Whitton Road  
Twickenham , TW2 7BA Tel: 0208 831 2000

### **What to do if you're worried a Child is being abused?**

**Reference:** DFES-04320-2006 **Published:** December 2006 **Publication Type:** Guidance

**Audience:** Children's health services, Lead Member for Children's Services, Local Authorities, People who work with children

Can be downloaded from:

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/dfes-04320-2006>

### **Keeping your child safe in sport**

**Published by:** Sport England / NSPCC / department for children, schools and families

**Available from:** Department for Culture, Media and Sport 20 7211 6200 or email [enquiries@culture.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture.gov.uk)



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Bideford Rugby Club Junior Section Code of Conduct**

Player safety is paramount and remains the highest priority of the Junior Committee. We would therefore like to draw the attention of players, parents & carers to the “Good Players’ Code”.

Poor behaviour and breaches of the Code cannot be tolerated as it endangers players and puts unacceptable pressure on our committed volunteers who give up their time freely to coach rugby.

As such, the Committee has agreed that breaches of the Code, either at training or at matches, will be dealt with using the following sanctions:

1. A clear verbal warning will be issued.
2. If players do not heed the warning, they will be told to sit out for 10 minutes.
3. If behaviour continues to cause problems then they will not be able to attend the following training session.

Repeated breaches of the Code, and continued poor behaviour, will be referred to the Committee.

We thank you for your help in ensuring that being a player in the Bideford Rugby Junior Club remains fun, challenging and fulfilling.

The Junior Section Committee  
October 2017

Reviewed  
August 2024