



OPM Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

OPM RFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in OPM RFC, from harm.

OPM RFC confirms that it adheres to the RFU's Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practises and guidelines and endorses and adopts the policy statement contained in that document.

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 an adult game, it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure that his safety and wellbeing are protected.

The key principles of the RFU Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adult's policy are:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult (as appropriate) 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 practise will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
- Working in partnership with other organisations, statutory agencies, parents, carers is essential for the welfare of children and young people.
- Children have a right to expect support and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted and managed individual in relation to their participation in Rugby Union, whether they are playing, volunteering or officiating in the community or professional areas of the sport.

OPM 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 practise.

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



OPM JUNIOR RFC



OPM RFC will implement and comply with the RFU code of conduct and codes of conduct for coaches, spectators and officials as appropriate. It will ensure its spectators, parents, members and officials are all aware of and have accepted the club photographic policy as set out in the clubs welcome pack and on the website.

OPM RFC will endeavour to comply with the guidance for websites as set out on the RFU website.

The club Safeguarding Officer is

Karen Gerson
E: kmbg66@yahoo.co.uk
M: 0777 350 6389

If you witness or are aware of any incident where the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult has been put at risk, you must in the first instance inform the club's Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the CB Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Executive.

If an incident involves the club's Safeguarding Officer you must inform the club Junior Chairman, **Jenny Trinder (0751 270 8989)**, and either the CB Safeguarding Manager **Elaine Palmer (01271 371 187)** or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

All members of OPM RFC who have a regular supervisory contact with children or a management responsibility for those working with children must undertake an RFU enhanced DBS disclosure in accordance with regulation 21. Only when the DBS status is agreed as 'current' are they be permitted to supervise children.

OPM RFC will ensure that all its members whether they are coaches, parents, players or officials, will comply with the best practise 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, children, vulnerable adult or adults.
- Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or vulnerable adults.
- Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
- Smoking in the presence of children.
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.



OPM JUNIOR RFC



- Humiliating children or vulnerable adults.
- Participating in, or allowing contact or physical games with children or vulnerable adults.
- 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.

OPM RFC manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by two adults DBS checked and the appropriate gender for the players using the facility. OPM 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 or vulnerable adults.

OPM RFC will ensure that its coaches and team managers will have access to the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role. The RFU “managing challenging behaviour” policy has been adopted and circulated amongst the club workforce.

Any events on OPM RFC premises must comply with this policy and if appropriate a risk assessment should be conducted, discussed and circulated to those affected.

Any tours, overseas or domestic undertaken by OPM RFC must comply with the relevant RFU regulations and guidance relating to tours.