



Bridport Rugby Football Club

Club Safeguarding Policy 2020-2021

1. Bridport Rugby Football Club (BRFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in BRFC from harm.
2. BRFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) [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 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.

Teamwork

Discipline

Respect

Enjoyment

Sportsmanship



- 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. BRFC 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. BRFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.
6. BRFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct [BRFC Code of Conduct](#), [BRFC Player Code of Conduct](#) and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate. [RFU Age Grade Rugby Codes of Practice](#)
7. The Club Safeguarding Officer is: Niamh Vercoe, 07901 703973, niamhvercoe81@yahoo.co.uk. 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 (constituent body is Dorset & Wilts RFU) Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Team. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform the BRFC Chair Julian Hussey julian@funeraldirectors.uk.com and either the CB Safeguarding Manager Julie Boddington safeguarding@dwrugby.co.uk 07445010701 or the RFU Safeguarding Team: safeguarding@rfu.com RFU 24 hour child protection line: 0208 831 6655

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8. All members of BRFC who work with children in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU [Regulation 21](#)

9. BRFC will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents, players or officials will comply with the Best Practice Guidance (page 18-24 of Safeguarding Policy booklet) 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.
- 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.
- Taking or sharing photographs / videos of children / players without parental or BRFC consent.

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11. BRFC 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. BRFC ensures that all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same Game, using the same facilities as children.
12. BRFC 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 Behaviour” Policy has been adopted and circulated amongst the club workforce both, voluntary and paid. [BRFC Managing Challenging Behaviour](#)
13. Any events held on BRFC 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 BRFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance [Touring with Children](#) relating to tours.
14. BRFC has a Whistleblowing policy. You can raise concerns with your coach, manager or **any** club official. However, where a matter is more serious, or you feel that your concerns have not been addressed, or you prefer not to raise it with your coach, manager, or club official then different alternatives exist. See full policy on website and noticeboard.
15. This policy statement should be read in conjunction with other documents and codes which form BRFC comprehensive policy approach to safeguarding. Other documents can be found on the club's website www.bridportrugby.co.uk and clubhouse noticeboard.

Signed



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Club PosiGon

Chair - Julian Hussey

Date

12th October 2020

Policy format adopted from the RFU Safeguarding Model Club Policy Template dated 06/08/2019

Adopted by BRFC CommiEee 9th December 2019

Policy reviewed 12th October 2020

Next review September 2021

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