



Safeguarding policy

Preston & South Ribble Rabbitohs RFLC

Overview

Preston and South Ribble Rabbitohs Rugby League Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child, young person and vulnerable adult who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all of its members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 involved in any club football activity. A vulnerable adult is anyone who may be unable to take care of himself or herself or be unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or exploitation. We subscribe to the RFL Safeguarding Policy (revised version 2022) and endorse and accept the Policy Statement contained in that document.

Key principles of the RFL Safeguarding Policy

The key principles of the RFL Safeguarding Policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, ethnic origin, gender, special needs, disability, class or social background, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, colour or political persuasion.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately

We acknowledge that every child or young person or vulnerable adult who plays or participates in rugby league should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

Preston and South Ribble Rabbitohs Rugby League Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that the RFL Safeguarding Policy and related regulations applies to everybody in rugby league whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper, coach, club official or medical staff.

Our approach

We endorse and adopt the RFL's Safeguarding Policy on recruiting volunteers and staff and will follow the recruitment procedures as set out in that policy and summarised below:

- Develop a job description or role profile- safeguarding officer/ club welfare officer on the club committee.
- Apply for an RFL DBS Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with RFL policy
- All current Preston and South Ribble Rabbitohs Rugby League Club members with direct access to children, young people and vulnerable adults will be required to complete a DBS Enhanced disclosure via the RFL DBS unit.

Club welfare officer

Preston and South Ribble Rabbitohs Rugby League Club has/will appoint a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with the RFL's role profile. The CWO will take part in training as defined in the RFL's Safeguarding Education and Training Strategy. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members and parents/carers regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person or vulnerable adult. The CWO will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns and will play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

'Whistle-blower' policy

It is accepted that the RFL aims to prevent people with a history relevant and significant offending from having contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults and prevent them having the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children or young people or vulnerable adults and to minimise the risk of grooming within rugby league.

Preston and South Ribble Rabbitohs Rugby League Club supports the RFL's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can whistle blow by contacting the RFL Safeguarding team (see details below).

Anti-bullying policy

We acknowledge and endorse the RFL's Anti Bullying Policy. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and to know that bullying will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO and in the case of serious bullying or adult on child bullying to the RFL Safeguarding Team.

The RESPECT Code of Conduct for coaches, players, officials, parents/carers, officials and coaches has been implemented by Preston and South Ribble Rabbitohs Rugby League Club. The Club has a fair disciplinary system and clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be applied by Leagues or the RFL in more serious circumstances. All prospective members will be informed of these codes.

Further information

General advice on safeguarding can be found on the RFL website: www.rugby-league.com/governance/about-the-rfl

Urgent advice on Safeguarding matters can be obtained from NSPCC Child Protection 24-hour Helpline 0808 800 5000

The RFL Safeguarding team can be contacted as follows:

- Email: safeguarding@rfl.uk.com
- Write: Red Hall, Red Hall Lane, Leeds, LS17 8NB.
- Telephone: 07595520610