



Rugby League Club Safeguarding Policy 2021

1 Safeguarding Policy

Stanley Rangers Amateur 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 members.

“The RFL is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children in the sport of Rugby League. For over a decade we have worked closely with the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) and NSPCC to develop robust policy and procedures to safeguard children, achieving the NSPCC & CPSU's National Advanced Standards for safeguarding and protecting children in sport in 2008. We work closely with all our clubs and statutory agencies to ensure that safeguarding children is prioritised. Any allegation, suspicion of harm or concern is taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately. Everyone shares the responsibility for safeguarding and creating safe environments in rugby league whether as a parent, coach, spectator, or club official. This means that everyone should operate and demonstrate exemplary behaviour to both safeguard children and protect all personnel from allegations of abuse or poor practice. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines a child as everyone under 18 unless, "under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier". In England, a child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.”

Stanley Rangers adopts the same commitment.

Statement contained in that document.

2 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.

3 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.

4 The 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. Also, education in knowing the signs of abuse and how to report this.

- For example a player becoming with drawn, irregular attendance or in appropriate behaviour



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.

5 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.
- As a minimum meet and chat with applicants and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
- Coaches to complete Safeguarding Course and keep upto date.
- Apply for an RFL Enhanced DBS where appropriate in line with RFL policy (all coaches, First Aiders, Gameday Managers as well as Team Managers)

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.

6 The 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).

7 The Rugby League Club has appointed 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. And will be registered with the league. 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.

Stanley Ranger's CWO will be named on the CRF1 Form and made known to all the teams along with his/her contact details.

8 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.



9 The RESPECT Code of Conduct for coaches, players, officials, parents/carers, match officials and coaches has been implemented by The 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.

10 Further advice on Safeguarding matters can be obtained from:

- The NSPCC Child Protection 24-hour Helpline 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk
- 18 or under? Childline offers free, confidential advice and support whatever your worry, whenever you need help. tel:08001111
- The RFL Safeguarding Team by emailing safeguarding@rfl.uk.com
 1. Robert Hicks, Head of Legal
 2. Kerry Simmons, Safeguarding Manager
 3. Andrea Murray, Secondary Schools Manager
 4. Gavin Wild, Compliance Manager

or

writing to the Safeguarding team at the Rugby Football League Ltd, Trafford Wharf Rd, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1HH.

https://secure.rugby-league.com/ign_docs/RFL%20Safeguarding%20Policy_2021.pdf

https://secure.rugby-league.com/ign_docs/RFL%20Safeguarding%20Adults%20at%20Risk%20Policy%202018%20PDF.pdf

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