

REIGATE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Colley Lane, Reigate, Surrey



Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction

Reigate Rugby Football Club Minis section (“RRFC Minis”) aims to provide a safe environment in which children and young people can start to play and enjoy rugby. To help us achieve this, RRFC Minis has adopted the RFU policy and procedures for the welfare of young people in rugby. Full details of this policy, together with related guidance can be found by clicking on the following links:

- a. [RFU Child Protection Policy](#)
- b. [RFU Guidance](#)

2. Key requirements

This policy applies to anyone under the age of eighteen playing rugby at RRFC Minis, and in compliance with this policy we will ensure that the following key steps are taken:

Key requirements	RRFC procedures
a. The welfare of all children and young people is paramount	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ We encourage the value of participation for all of our youngsters, and do not focus solely on our best players➤ Coaches are required to place the well-being and safety of the player above the development of performance➤ Children will be coached in accordance with the RFU’s Rugby Continuum, to ensure that activities remain appropriate to each age group➤ At least one coach per age group will hold a current RFU coaching award
b. Appointment of a club Welfare Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The club has appointed a Welfare Officer, to act as the first point of contact in the event of any concerns about the welfare of young people
c. Adoption of best practice codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ All coaches are required to act in accordance with the best practice codes set out by the RFU with regards to child welfare (included within the Guidance above)➤ Officers of the club and committee members must also be familiar with the RFU Guidance, and the requirements it places upon them

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Key requirements

d. CRB disclosure

RRFC procedures

- Any individual within the club who has regular supervisory contact with young people will be subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure check

3. Administrative matters

- This policy is available on-line at the club's website (www.reigaterugby.co.uk)
- The parents / guardians of all Minis players must complete and sign the club's Registration Form, which will provide the club with emergency contact numbers and details of any medical conditions
- A register of players attending matches and training sessions will be maintained by the club

4. Health and safety

Accident prevention

We will take the following steps to safeguard against accidents on the rugby pitch:

- Coaches are required to ensure that players only engage in activities suited to their physical development, abilities and age
- Parents are responsible for informing coaching staff of any recent injuries or relevant medical conditions / illness suffered by players
- Players must wear kit appropriate to the conditions (see also Parental Responsibilities below)
- Minis players must wear gum shields in order to participate in contact rugby or contact training
- Pitch inspections will be conducted prior to the start of training or play to determine whether conditions are suitable for play:
 - We do not play on heavily frozen or waterlogged pitches
- Play will be shortened in the event of poor weather conditions
- The club will perform an annual risk assessment of facilities at the club

Accident procedures

We have adopted the following procedures to help cope with the possibility of injury during rugby:

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- First Aid kits will be available at every match or training session
- Coaches and club officers are encouraged to undertake first aid training, and at least one person with first aid training will be present at all training sessions / matches
- Any injuries sustained are recorded to aid future accident prevention.

5. Parental responsibilities

Whilst we do as much as possible to ensure that each child has a safe and fun experience in learning and playing rugby, we ask parents to help us achieve this by:

- Ensuring that young players wear appropriate kit for the conditions, as we play rugby from September through to July (see the Kit guidelines within the club's Welcome Pack)
- Helping your children to change kit / remove any articles of clothing when required, as this is not the responsibility of coaching staff
- Informing coaching staff of any recent injuries or relevant medical conditions / illness suffered by players
- Ensuring that you remain in attendance during training or matches
 - If you are absent for a short period, you must ensure that another adult known to your child accepts responsibility for your child during this time, and that your child together with a member of the coaching team, are aware of these arrangements
- Agreeing to adhere to the RFU Parents' Code of Conduct (available on the club's website).

6. Anti bullying statement

Bullying is not always easy to define and will not always be an adult abusing a young person. It is often the case that the bully is a young person. Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person, and results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying can be:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding (emotionally and physically), tormenting (eg hiding rugby kit, threatening gestures including sending threatening text messages).
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- Racist - racial taunts, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments.
- Homophobic - because of , or focusing on the issue of sexuality.
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.

Bullying of any kind is not acceptable within the club.

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Any incidents of bullying should be reported to the contacts set out in section 7 below. Players and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

7. Complaints procedures

Should you have any concerns about any child welfare issues, please contact Roger Lloyd, Minis Welfare Officer, in person or phone 01737 245084.

Alternatively, please contact either Rolfe Jackson, Minis Secretary on 07800 709175 or Julian Griffiths, Minis Chair on 07754 992868.

Other contact numbers, with regards to child protection issues are:

RFU Child Protection line 0208 831 6655

NSPCC 24 hour helpline 0800 800 5000