



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

General

Children are the lifeblood of the game and it is crucial that they are cared for in the correct manner. Any player under the age of 18 is classed as a child and should be respected as such.

As a parent you will no doubt want your child to enjoy their involvement in rugby union in a safe, friendly environment where there are opportunities to learn and develop rugby skills while also having fun.

The RFU, Constituent Bodies, member Clubs and schools all need work together, each with a role to ensure that young people enjoy rugby union in a constructive environment.

In order to provide young people with the best possible experiences and opportunities in the sport of rugby union, it is imperative that everyone operates within an accepted ethical framework and demonstrates exemplary behaviour.

This not only ensures the game makes a positive contribution to the development of young people, safeguards them and promotes their welfare but also protects all personnel from allegations of abuse or poor practice.

Child Protection Codes of Conduct

In the interest of maintaining child welfare it is important to adhere to the following rules when applicable:

- All rugby coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person with whom they work with and treat them equally within the context of rugby union.
- All rugby coaches must place the physical and emotional well being of all young players above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
- The relationship that a rugby coach develops with the players with whom they work must be based on mutual trust and respect.
- All rugby coaches must ensure that all activities undertaken are appropriate to the age, maturity, experience and ability of the young players.
- All rugby coaches must encourage young players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.