



OLD COVENTRIANS
R.F.C.



Accredited Club

Old Coventrians RFC

Safeguarding of Children and Young People Policy

Old Coventrians RFC (OCRFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people involved with the club and its activities from harm.

Old Coventrians RFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy Guidance and Procedures, practices and guidelines and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor policy.

A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17-year-old young player is playing in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure their safety and wellbeing is protected and appropriate consents obtained where necessary.

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, ethnicity, religious belief, 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.
- 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.

Old Coventrians RFC 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 emotional poor practice. OCRFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.

Old Coventrians RFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Rugby and Core Values "Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship" as appropriate.

The Club Safeguarding Officer is:

Sue Applegate

Mob: 07861 747547

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The Theme Lead for Player Welfare is:

Richard Davies

Email: richard.davies54@btinternet.com

Each Age Group also has a nominated Safeguarding Officer whose details can be found on the Club Website.

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 or the Theme Lead for Player Welfare or the Age Group Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the Safeguarding Manager for Warwickshire RFU and the RFU Safeguarding Team. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer, you should inform the Club Junior Chair and either the Safeguarding Manager or Warwickshire RFU or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

All members of Old Coventrians RFC who work with children in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21.

Old Coventrians RFC will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents, players or officials will comply with the Best Practice Guidance 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, Warwickshire RFU or the RFU:

- Working alone with a child or young person.
- Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or young people.
- Providing alcohol to children/young person or allowing its supply.
- Smoking in the presence of children/young person while coaching.
- Causing emotional abuse to children or young people.
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child.
- Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children/young people.
- Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or young person developed as a result of being in a "position of trust."
- Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.

Old Coventrians RFC manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by DBS checked adults of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. OCRFC ensures that all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same time, using the same facilities as children.

Old Coventrians RFC will ensure that its team coaches and administrators will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role.



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Any events held on Old Coventrians RFC 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 OCRFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.

E-Safety / Individuals' use of ICT

Old Coventrians RFC expects all members to use the internet, mobile and digital technologies responsibly and in accordance with the following conditions:

Members shall not visit internet sites, make, post, download, upload or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments which contain or relate to:

- Indecent images of children.
- Promoting discrimination of any kind.
- Promoting racial or religious hatred.
- Promoting illegal acts.
- Any other information which may be offensive to peers or colleagues, such as abusive images, promotion of violence, gambling, criminally racist or religious hatred material, or other such material which could cause offence.
- Using services in any way to intimidate, threaten or cause harm to others.
- Members will be expected to report, immediately, any inappropriate material found through internet or other ICT media.
- There is a clear expectation any communication which could be deemed to be "of a personal nature" will not be permitted between the distinct groups of Adults (coaches, parents, administrators and officials) and Children / Young People (including 17 year olds playing adult rugby). This includes membership of "Facebook" groups or similar i.e. WhatsApp, Snapchat etc., professional communication relating to coaching, playing or administration is, of course, acceptable.

This policy was presented to the Old Coventrians RFC Main Management Committee in October 2016 and adopted at the Old Coventrians RFC Junior Committee on 16th January 2017.

Signed:

OCRFC Junior Chair

Date: 28th January 2017



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Other Relevant Documents:

OCRFC Photographic Policy

OCRFC Equality Policy Statement

OCRFC Player Registration / Consent Forms

www.oldcoventriansrfc.co.uk/juniors_docs.php

RFU Safeguarding Policy, Guidance & Procedures

RFU Safeguarding Toolkit

www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/policy-and-guidance

RFU Regulation 15: Age Grade Rugby

RFU Regulation 21: Safeguarding

www.englandrugby.com/governance/regulations

RFU Core Values: *Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship*

**TEAMWORK
RESPECT
ENJOYMENT
DISCIPLINE
SPORTSMANSHIP**

Updated September 2016 by Richard Davies, Theme Lead for Player Welfare / reviewed by Sue Applegate, Club Safeguarding Officer, January 2017

Review date September 2019