DURHAM COUNTY RFU

SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR

CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

1. DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in the DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION from harm.

2. DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION confirms that it adheres to the England Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor policy.

3. a) A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17 year old male player is playing in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure his safety and wellbeing are protected.

b) The definition of a vulnerable adult is defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and is a person who is 18 years or older and has:

- Dependency upon others, or a requirement for assistance from others, in the performance of basic physical functions.
- Severe impairment in their ability to communicate with others.
- An impairment in their ability to protect themselves from assault, abuse or neglect.
- Has been detained in lawful custody or is being supervised as a result of a court order.

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4. The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Policy are that:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations.
- All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, 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.

5. DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION 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 poor practice. DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, within the County.

6. DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.

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7. The DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION Safeguarding Manager is Kevin Robinson (Darlington Mowden Park RFC) and the Deputy is Sharon Powch (Houghton RFC). 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. They will then inform the CB Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Team. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform an appropriate senior Durham County Official or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

8. All members of DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION who work with children and vulnerable adults in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21.

9. DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION will ensure that all it's 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 CB or the RFU:

NOT ACCEPTABLE

- Working alone with a child or vulnerable adult.
- Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children and vulnerable adults.
- Providing alcohol to children or vulnerable adults or allowing its supply.
- Smoking in the presence of children or vulnerable adults.
- Humiliating children or vulnerable adults.
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.
- Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children or vulnerable adults.
- Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or vulnerable adult, developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust.'
- Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.

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10. DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION will ensure that its County and Club coaches and their respective Team Managers will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role. The RFU 'Managing Challenging Behaviour' Policy has been adopted and circulated amongst the County and Club workforce, both the voluntary and paid staff.

11. Any events held at any DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION club 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 any DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION club must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.

DURHAM COUNTY RFU CB SAFEGUARDING TEAM

CONSTITUENT BODY SAFEGUARDING MANAGER (CBSM)

KEVIN ROBINSON

CLUB – DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK RFC (01325 350267)
CONTACT NO. – 07977 409324
EMAIL ADDRESS. – kevinrobinson1239@hotmail.co.uk

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N.B. - Each club in Durham County RFU has a Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO), who is the first point of contact for any safeguarding allegations/incidents or advice within that club and the CSO will then report to the CBSM/Assistant CBSM for further investigation and onward transmission to the RFU if required.

ASSISTANT CB SAFEGUARDING MANAGER

Sharon Powch

Club – Houghton RFC (0191
Contact No. – 07739 503669
Email Address. – sharon.powch@gmail.com

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RFU AND OTHER CONTACTS

RFU Safeguarding Manager

Richard Smallbone
Contact: 0208 831 7832
Email Address: richardsmallbone@rfu.com

RFU Safeguarding Case Officer

Kath Bennett
Contact: 0208 831 7479
Email Address: kathbennett@rfu.com

RFU Safeguarding Advisor

Annie Davis
Contact: 0208 831 7480
Email Address: anniedavis@rfu.com

RFU Safeguarding Compliance Officer

Chris Rawlings
Contact: 0208 831 7454
Email Address: chrisrawlings@rfu.com

OTHER CONTACTS

NSPCC Helpline - 0808 800 5000
Child Protection in Sport – 0116 234 7278
CHILDLINE - 0800 1111

The following links to the England RFU websites are a useful online guide to safeguarding related matters and other useful forms.

The forms will need referring to in all cases.

The links list is not exhaustive and further links will be added in due course.

www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/players/regulations
http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/reporting-and-incident
www.englandrugby.com/govenrance/club/social-media-for-clubs
www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/players/concussion-headcase
www.englandrugby.com/governance/gamesupport/rugby-tours/resources-and-forms
www.englandrugby.com/consent_form_for_non_eaps_playing_out_of_age_grade
www.englandrugby.com/myrugby/englandrugbycourses
www.englandrugby.com/guidance_to_age_grade_regulation15
www.englandrugby.com/regulation21
www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/at-risk-adults
www.englandrugby.com/mm/touring_with_children
www.englandrfu.com/governance/insurance
www.englandrugby.com/insurance/tours-insurance
http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/policy-and-guidance
http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/disclosure-and-barring-service-guidance
http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/safeguarding-course-search
http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/game-support/medical-and-first-aid
http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/legal-and-admin/data-protection

PLEASE NOTE - **The inclusion of these links will be subject to monitoring and constant change as RFU policies are being updated on a frequent basis.**
If in any doubt, consult the England RFU websites at:

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