



Lordswood Rugby Football Club

Safeguarding Policy

2024 – 2025 Season

1. Lordswood Rugby Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in Lordswood RFC from harm.
2. Lordswood RFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document.
3. A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17 year old player is playing in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure their safety and wellbeing are protected. Lordswood RFC will ensure that they have complied with Regulation 15.6 with regards to U17s playing Adult Rugby.
4. The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Children 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 and young people.
 - 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. Lordswood 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 poor practice. Lordswood RFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.
6. Lordswood RFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate, including the Age Grade Code of Conduct.
7. The Club Safeguarding Officer is Barney Thompson. If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child has been put at risk, or you have a concern about a child, in the first instance, inform the Club Safeguarding Officer directly. They will then inform the CB Safeguarding Manager and the National RFU Safeguarding Team. If an

incident or concern involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform the Club Chairman and the National RFU Safeguarding Team. Concerns will be submitted using the RFU's Safeguarding Referral Form.

8. All members of Lordswood RFC who work with children and young people on behalf of the Club in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21. All DBS checks will be renewed every 3 years, in line with RFU Policy. Prior to any New DBS Check or DBS Renewal, the applicant will complete the RFU's Online Safeguarding Course.

9. Lordswood 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, the CB or the RFU:

- Working alone with a child.
- Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children in a first-aider, coaching or refereeing capacity.
- Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
- Smoking/Vaping in front of children.
- Humiliating children.
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child.
- Participating in contact or physical games with children.
- Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust.'
- Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.

10. Lordswood RFC manages changing facilities and seeks to ensure that they are appropriately supervised by DBS checked adults and adults of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. Lordswood RFC 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.

11. All Volunteers who will be working with children and young people will be recruited in line with Lordswood RFC's Volunteer Recruitment Process. An up-to-date list of all those working with children and young people on behalf of Lordswood RFC will be kept.

12. Lordswood RFC will ensure that its coaches and team managers will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role.

13. Any events held on Lordswood RFC premises must comply with this Policy and, if appropriate, a Safeguarding Risk Assessment should be conducted and circulated to those affected.

14. Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by Lordswood RFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours. This will include the completion of consent forms by all children and young people participating in the tour, and the completion of a risk assessment by those leading the tour.

15. Lordswood RFC recognises that the use of Social Media poses additional safeguarding risks. Guidance on the use of Social Media is issued to all coaches, managers and club officials and is available on the Club website, in the form of the Social Media Policy.

16. Lordswood RFC aims to follow best practice, as set out by the RFU, with regards to a range of rugby-related issues. Further guidance on these issues can be found on the RFU website or via the links below:

- [Safeguarding considerations for changing rooms](#)
- [Parental attendance at rugby](#)

- [Physical intervention in rugby](#)
- [Protocol for contact in rugby](#)
- [Encouraging positive behaviour](#)
- [Photography, filming and use of imagery](#)

17. Lordswood RFC recognises that safeguarding does not only apply to children – we also have a duty to safeguard the vulnerable adults we work with. Lordswood RFC follows the guidance set on in the RFU's Safeguarding Adults Policy.

Last reviewed in September 2024
Due for review in September 2025