

CHRISTCHURCH RFC SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Safeguarding Policy Statement

At Christchurch RFC, safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. We are committed to creating an environment where adults and young people feel safe, welcome, valued and heard. We believe that everyone has the right to enjoy rugby in a safe, positive and inclusive environment. Guided by the Core Values of Rugby: Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship, we will work together to promote wellbeing, prevent harm and respond appropriately whenever concerns arise. The welfare of adults and children is paramount in all decisions and actions taken by the Club.

Purpose

This policy sets out the Club's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in particular involved in rugby union. It applies to everyone involved in the Club, including players, coaches, volunteers, officials, committee members, parents, carers and spectators. For the purposes of this policy, a child is anyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding Framework

Christchurch RFC adopts and will comply with RFU Regulation 21, the RFU Safeguarding Children Policy, the RFU Safeguarding Handbook and relevant legislation and statutory guidance. These documents provide detailed safeguarding standards, procedures and requirements that underpin this policy.

Listening to Children and Young People

We are committed to listening to children and young people, taking their views seriously and supporting them to speak up when something concerns them.

Club-Specific Safeguarding Considerations

Christchurch RFC will regularly consider safeguarding matters relevant to its facilities, activities and location. These may include shared facilities, public access arrangements, environmental hazards, changing facilities, travel, tours, events, digital communication and partnership working.

Safer Recruitment, Training and Support

The Club is committed to ensuring that individuals working with children are appropriately recruited, vetted, trained and supported in accordance with RFU requirements.

Safeguarding Through Rugby's Core Values

TEAMWORK

What We Ask Of Our Members:

- help create a safe environment; report concerns; support others; recognise that safeguarding is a shared responsibility.

What The Club Will Do:

- promote awareness; provide guidance; work with England Rugby and its respective agencies; review safeguarding arrangements.

RESPECT

What We Ask Of Our Members:

- treat everyone with dignity; value diversity; listen to children; and encourage everyone to share good practice and raise concerns.

What The Club Will Do:

- foster openness; take concerns seriously; promote positive behaviour; communicate expected standards.

ENJOYMENT

What We Ask Of Our Members:

- help make rugby enjoyable; encourage participation; support positive experiences.

What The Club Will Do:

- create a safe, welcoming environment; prioritise safeguarding and welfare; celebrate positive contributions.

DISCIPLINE

What We Ask Of Our Members:

- Follow policies and codes; take responsibility; raise concerns.

What The Club Will Do:

- Respond appropriately to concerns; apply procedures fairly; take action where risks arise.

SPORTSMANSHIP

What We Ask Of Our Members:

- demonstrate honesty, fairness and kindness; be a role model; challenge poor behaviour.

What The Club Will Do:

- promote rugby values; support volunteers and officials; maintain a safe environment.

Reporting Concerns

If you have any concern regarding the welfare, wellbeing or safety of a child, report it without delay.

Club Safeguarding Officer: Wendy Macleod

Email: phoenix368@sky.com

Telephone: 07761 792519

The Club Safeguarding Officer is the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns within the Club. If a concern involves the Club Safeguarding Officer, concerns may be raised with the Constituent Body Safeguarding Manager (Julie Fisher 07445 010701), RFU Safeguarding Team ([via the reporting form](#) or safeguarding@dwrugby.co.uk), Children's Social Care or the Police. If a child is at immediate risk of harm, contact emergency services immediately.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, following significant safeguarding incidents, or following changes to RFU safeguarding requirements.

Adoption

Club Name: Christchurch RFC

Date Adopted: 4th August 2026

Review Date: 4th August 2027

Chairperson: Mark Bridges

Club Safeguarding Officer: Wendy Macleod