

# *Blandford RFC Safeguarding Vulnerable People Policy*

Blandford Rugby Football Club (BRFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in Blandford Rugby Football Club from harm.

BRFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

A child is deemed to be 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.

The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Vulnerable People Policy are that:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult (as appropriate) 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/or 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 and young people have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted coach 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.

BRFC recognises that all children and young people 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. Blandford RFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club. In depth guidance on safeguarding is provided [here](#).

BRFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate. Blandford RFC will ensure its spectators, parents, members and officials are all aware of and have accepted the club Photographic Policy as set out in this documentation and on the website.

BRFC will endeavour to comply with the Guidance for Websites as set out on the RFU website and [BRFC guidance](#).

The Club Safeguarding Officer is Mr Paul Clark. His contact details are Mobile Phone: 07583120820 or e-mail: pdclark1234@hotmail.com. If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult 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 Executive. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer or the Assistant Safeguarding Officer you should inform the Club Chairman and either the CB Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

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

BRFC 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, children or vulnerable adults.
- Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or vulnerable adults.
- Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
- Smoking in the presence of children.
- 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.

BRFC manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by two adults (RFU DBS checked) of the appropriate gender for the young players using the facilities. BRFC 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 or vulnerable adults.

BRFC will ensure that coaches and team managers in the Mini and Youth Section 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 club workforce both, voluntary and paid.

Any events held on BRFC premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate a Safe-guarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected. Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by the Mini and Youth Section BRFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.

Thomas Davis-Richings  
Chairman  
Date August 2021