



Rosslyn
Park FC

To: All RPFC Age Group Coaches & Parent Volunteers

ROSSLYN PARK SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN SEPT 2020

SAFEGUARDING

The welfare of young people under the age of 18 playing rugby is paramount, therefore, like the game of rugby, we like to take safeguarding seriously within the club, we are constantly working hard towards generating an environment for the players to feel safe and of course always have fun.

At all times we are always looking into ways of improving therefore, raising awareness to players, club members and the supporting community is fundamental to achieving this. We have a duty to ensure that safeguarding children is prioritised and that each child's rugby experience is as good as possible.

The club has its own Safeguarding Policy and we follow guidelines and procedures adopted from the Rugby Football Union.

DBS checks are a requirement for all our coaches, club staff and parent volunteers to be in compliance with the club's code of conduct. DBS reviews are held at the beginning of each season as to the status of individual coaches DBS status and any new DBS checks or "refreshes" will be performed as required. All players, coaches and volunteers are expected to follow the guidelines as set by the club's Safeguarding Policy and the RFU Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. Any new DBS applicants being processed will now be required to undertake a quick online course/test to ensure that the applicant understands what is required of them in relation to Safeguarding. This is an RFU requirement and will be part of the standard DBS process. A link to the RFU policy is provided within this communication and all coaches must take the time to review it.

The situation concerning **COVID-19** is likely to be in a state of flux for some time to

come. The RFU has recently announced the move to Stage D as per their Return To Rugby Roadmap (click [here](#)) which has different implications for the different age levels. Coaches are to ensure that the guidance provided by the RFU and the Club are followed and practices adapted as per current guidance or as it changes. Should the situation be unclear, please refer initially to the Minis / Youth Chairperson's or otherwise Dom Shabbo. The current rules for COVID-19 embedded specifically at Rosslyn Park FC are listed below and must be adhered to.

The RFU offers great in-depth Safeguarding courses which can be undertaken by any coach or parent volunteer, please ask for details or register via the RFU courses website.

Rosslyn Park Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in Rosslyn Park FC from harm.

Andy Mathias
Safeguarding Officer
Rosslyn Park Football Club
Email: safeguarding@rosslynpark.co.uk



COVID RULES RUGBY RETURN TO PLAY

Make your safety a priority



1 STAY AT HOME!

If you feel sick or if you, or anyone in your household, experiences COVID symptoms



2 SANITISE YOUR HANDS

All players and coaches MUST sanitise their hands before and after each session. Please bring your own hand sanitiser.



3 TOILETS

The changing block door will be propped open. Toilets can only be used one person at a time. Please wash hands thoroughly before and after use.



4 NO CHANGING FACILITIES

Please arrive and leave in training kit



5 BRING YOUR OWN WATER

Please do NOT use the drinking water taps



6 MAX CAPACITY: 2 GROUPS OF 10

Groups must be spaced apart. Groups can comprise up to 9 players + 1 coach. All individuals must maintain 1m distance at all times.



7 SHARING KIT (EG BALLS)

Limited kit sharing is allowed if strict hand sanitising is performed before and after the session



8 NO PHYSICAL CONTACT

Maintain 1m distance at all times

9 PARENTS/ CARERS

Must allow maintain 1m distance at all times



10 NO ACCESS TO THE CLUBHOUSE

THE RFU SAFEGUARDING POLICY

All coaches at RPFC are required to have read and understood the RFU policy relating to Safeguarding. Find [here](#) a use-friendly summary that covers not only training and tournament but also policy requirements relating to Tours for any age level rugby groups.

ROSSLYN PARK SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Rosslyn Park Football Club (RPFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in Rosslyn Park from harm.

2. RPFPC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor policy.

3. 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.

4. 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, 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. RPFPC 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. RPFPC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.

6. RPFPC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.

7. The Club Safeguarding Officer is Andrew Mathias (07771 601443). 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 the current Minis or Youth Chairman and either the CB Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

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

9. RPFC 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.
- Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
- Smoking in the presence of children.
- Humiliating children.
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child.
- Participating in, or allowing, 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. RPFC manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by two DBS checked adults of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. RPFC 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.

EXPECTED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS

Please can all coaches ensure that the following fundamentals are cascaded through the age groups:

Participate for the 'fun' of it, not just to please your parents or coach.

Play to the Laws of the Game.

Accept all the referee's decisions.

Control your temper – you and your team will benefit.

Recognise all good play, whether by your team or by your opponents' team – adopt a good sporting attitude.

Treat all players as you yourself would like to be treated. Don't interfere with, bully, or take unfair advantage of any player.

Remember, as well as enjoyment, the aim of the game are to improve your skills and feel good. Do not be a show-off.

Co-operate with your coach, referee, team mates, and opponents, for without them you do not have a game.

Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will your own.