



Harrogate Pythons Rugby Union Football Club

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

HPRUFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in rugby at HPRUFC from harm. HPRUFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices, and guidelines. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. Where a 17-year-old player is playing in the adult game every reasonable precaution will be taken to ensure their safety and well-being are also protected.

THE KEY PRINCIPLES of the RFU Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy are that:

- The welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is, and must always be, paramount to any other consideration.
- 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 practise 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.

HPRUFC 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 practise. HPRUFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club. Please see links to see a full copy of RFU's safeguarding policy which HPRUFC bases this policy on and follows RFU guidance on:

- <https://www.englandrugby.com/dxdam/8a/8a4d35ee-0a0a-458d-8bcc-20dba6ff3065/safeguardingpolicybooklet.pdf> RFU Welfare of Young People Policy Guidelines

The Club has appointed Will Butler as Safeguarding Officer who can be contacted by emailing safeguarding@pythonsrugby.co.uk

All our coaches and volunteers are expected to follow the guidelines as set by the club's Safeguarding Policy and the RFU Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. It is the full responsibility of all Club Members, Coaches, Referees, Supporters and Players to uphold this policy.

How to report an incident

If a child tells you that someone either in or out of the rugby club environment is abusing her or him, you should:

- Listen do not prompt or add words.
- Reassure the child that he/she was right to tell you.
- Be Honest and explain that you will need to tell someone else in order to help and protect him/her.
- Share concerns with the Club's Safeguarding Officer
- Accurately record on an incident form what the child has said to you and what action you have taken.

The Club's Safeguarding Officer can help you, however, if you are not sure what to do, you can also get help from, RFU Safeguarding Adviser (0871 222 2120), the NSPCC 24-hour freephone helpline (0808 800 5000), the Child Protection in Sport Helpline (01162 347278) or contact any one of the Club's committee.