Clitheroe Rugby Union
Football Club
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www.clitheroerugby.com

Clitheroe RUFC Safeguarding Children Policy

Date of Issue: 1st July 2025

1. Clitheroe Rugby Union Football Club (RUFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in/with Clitheroe RUFC from harm.

2. Clitheroe RUFC 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 player is playing in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure their safety and wellbeing are protected.

Subject to RFU regulation 15.7, players can play and train in adult contact rugby when they reach their seventeenth birthday provided the following conditions are met:

- **(a)** the player does not train or play in the front row of the contested scrum. Once a player has reached the age of 18, the player may play in any position.
- **(b)** the RFU Safeguarding Policy and RFU Regulation 21 are complied with.
- **(c)** the Club has an appointed Safeguarding Officer and is approved by its Constituent Body to play 17-year-old males and/or females in adult rugby for the Season
- **(d)** the player has been assessed as capable of playing with adults and the club's assessment has been countersigned and approved by the adult club's Constituent Body to play adult rugby until their 18th birthday.

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. Clithoroe RUFC 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. Clitheroe RUFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.

6. Clitheroe RUFC 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 Kelly Bishop.



kellybishop@clitheroerugby.com or mobile 07855 223991

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 Club President Bob Wilkinson bobjwilkinson@clitheroerugby.com and either the CB Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

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

9. Clitheroe RUFC 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. Clitheoe RUFC 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. Clitheroe RUFC 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. Clitheroe RUFC will ensure that its coaches [and *team managers*] will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role.

12. Any events held on Clitheroe RUFC premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate a Safeguarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected. Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by Clitheroe RUFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.

This must be adopted in accordance with the club constitution.

Signed 

Date 1st July 2025