



Oxford Rugby Football Club Ltd

Safeguarding Policy

Updated August 2024

Review date August 2025

“Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers have a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfill this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centered. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.” Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2019)

“No single professional can have a full picture of a child’s needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.” Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2019)

“The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) are most likely to have a complete safeguarding picture and be the most appropriate person to advise on the response to safeguarding concerns.” Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2019)

General ORFC Policy.

1. ORFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in ORFC from harm.
2. ORFC confirms that it adheres to the RFU Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices, and guidelines and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor document.
3. RFU Guidelines: <https://www.englandrugby.com/run/safeguarding>
4. A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in a rugby union activity. If an U17 is playing in the adult game there are specific RFU procedures to follow and forms to fill in. ORFC must be an accredited club for U17's into Adult Rugby.

Oxford Rugby Club Limited Principles of Safeguarding

- The welfare of the child 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 practice must be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
- All suspicions MUST be reported immediately to the ORFC Designated Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) Indi Brodley admin@oxfordrfc.com
- Club members SHOULD NOT conduct their own investigation.
- If the club member feels that the case is not being dealt with to their satisfaction they should then report the case to the ORFC Chair chairman@oxfordrfc.com
- The ORFC CSO will inform the Oxfordshire SO who is Jenny Bosley bosleys.computer@outlook.com and the RFU Safeguarding Team.
- ORFC will work in partnership with external organisations should the need arise.

External Contact Details

Description	Contact
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	mash-children@oxfordshire.gov.uk 0345 050 7666
Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB)	oscb@oxfordshire.gov.uk 01865 815843

Designated Officer – Alison Beasley	alison.beasley@oxfordshire.gov.uk 01865 815956
Emergency Duty Team	0800 833 408
Police	101 or 999 (Emergencies)
Prevent (Radicalisation & Extremism) Non-emergency Advice	counterextremism@education.gsi.gov.uk 020 7340 7264
Childline	0800 1111
National Bullying helpline	0845 225 5787
NSPCC 2/7 Helpline/Textline	0808 800 5000/Text:88858
NSPCC FGM Helpline	fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk 0800 028 3550

- All members of ORFC who work with children in regulated activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21.
- As a guide the following is NOT acceptable practice at ORFC
- Working alone with children
- Consuming alcohol or smoking whilst responsible for children.
- Providing either of the above to children.
- Humiliating children - physically, socially, emotionally or verbally.
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with children.
- Participating in contact or physical games with children. (THIS INCLUDES HOLDING TACKLE SHIELDS).
- Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child which has developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust or authority'.
- Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit or other inappropriate images with a child.

- ORFC manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by 2 DBS checked adults of the appropriate gender for the players using those facilities.
- ORFC makes it explicit that coaches, parents, officials and spectators DO NOT change in the same space as children.
- ORFC has separate changing rooms for each gender in separate changing blocks.
- ORFC members who work with children MUST commit to undertake the RFU Play it Safe course.
- Any tours, domestic or overseas undertaken by ORFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance related to tours.

Any events held on ORFC property including outside lettings must comply with this policy. If appropriate a Safeguarding Plan should be discussed and approved with the hiree.