



Oxford Rugby Football Club Ltd

Safeguarding Policy

Updated August 2025

Review date August 2026

“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)

Oxford Rugby Football Club (ORFC) Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

Oxford Rugby Football Club (ORFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in rugby activities at the Club. The safety and well-being of children is of paramount importance and takes precedence over all other considerations.

ORFC fully endorses and adheres to the Rugby Football Union (RFU) Safeguarding Policy, its associated procedures, practices, and guidelines, including any updates or successor documents.

RFU Safeguarding Guidelines: <https://www.englandrugby.com/run/safeguarding>

In line with the RFU's definition, a *child* is any individual under the age of 18 participating in rugby union activities. Where players under the age of 18 (specifically U17s) are involved in adult rugby, the Club must comply with specific RFU protocols and documentation requirements. This includes being an accredited club in accordance with RFU regulations for Age Grade Rugby.

2. Safeguarding Principles

ORFC is committed to the following core principles of safeguarding:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
 - All participants—regardless of age, gender, race, ability, disability, faith, culture, sexual orientation, language, or background—have the right to protection from harm, abuse, or neglect.
 - Any allegation, suspicion, or concern relating to abuse, neglect, harm, or poor practice will be taken seriously, and dealt with promptly, fairly, and appropriately.
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3. Reporting Concerns

All safeguarding concerns or suspicions must be reported immediately to the Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO):

Designated Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO):
Federica Romei ✉️ romei.federica@gmail.com

Important:
Club members must not undertake their own investigations.

If a member feels that a safeguarding issue is not being handled appropriately, they should escalate their concern to the Club Chair:

Club Chair: chairman@oxfordrfc.com


The CSO will escalate the matter to the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Officer (SO), as well as the RFU Safeguarding Team.

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Officer:
Contact: TBC bosleys.computer@outlook.com

4. External Safeguarding Contacts

Organisation	Contact Details
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 (Non-Emergency / Emergency)	101 / 999
Prevent (Radicalisation)	✉️ counterextremism@education.gsi.gov.uk ☎️ 020 7340 7264

Childline

 0800 1111

National Bullying Helpline

0845 225 5787


NSPCC Helpline / Textline (24/7)

0808 800 5000

Text: 88858

NSPCC FGM Helpline

 fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

 0800 028 3550

5. Safer Recruitment & Training

All individuals involved in regulated activity with children at ORFC are required to undergo an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21.

All those working with children must complete the RFU "Play It Safe" Safeguarding Course.

6. Unacceptable Practices

The following behaviours are strictly prohibited at ORFC:

- Working alone with children.
 - Consuming alcohol or smoking while supervising children.
 - Providing alcohol or cigarettes to children.
 - Humiliating children (physically, emotionally, socially, or verbally).
 - Engaging in inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact.
 - Participating in contact or physical games with children, including holding tackle shields.
 - Forming or pursuing intimate or sexual relationships with any child under their supervision.
 - Making sexually explicit comments or sharing inappropriate content with a child.
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7. Changing Room Policy

- Changing facilities must be supervised by two DBS-checked adults of the appropriate gender.
 - Adults (including coaches, parents, and officials) must not change or shower at the same time as children.
 - Separate changing facilities are provided for boys and girls, located in distinct changing blocks.
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8. Tours and Events

All domestic or international tours undertaken by ORFC must comply with the relevant RFU Tour Regulations and Guidance.

Any event hosted on ORFC premises, including external bookings and lettings, must comply with this Safeguarding Policy. Where appropriate, a Safeguarding Plan must be agreed upon with the event organiser or hirer.

9. Working in Partnership

ORFC is committed to working in partnership with children, parents, carers, and external agencies where necessary to ensure the highest standards of safeguarding and child protection are maintained.

Oxford Rugby Club Limited
Registered Club and RFU Affiliate
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