

**Lymm Rugby Football Club Safeguarding Policy (2021)**

**Safeguarding Policy**

1. Lymm Rugby Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in the Club from harm.

1. Lymm Rugby Football club confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union’s Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor policy. A link to the policy is provided here [RFU Safeguarding Policy](http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/MyRugby/Volunteers/01/30/36/55/RFU_Safeguarding_Policy_Guidance_and_Procedures_Neutral.pdf).
2. 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. This will include a robust assessment and neutral approval of the individual player in line with updated advice from the Government’s disclosure & barring service along with parental consent. Please refer to RFU Regulation 15 for more details on Age Grade Rugby.
3. 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 and vetted person, which is 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.

1. Lymm Rugby Football Club 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.
2. Lymm Rugby Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the Club.

1. Lymm Rugby Football Club will comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.
2. 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 Constituent Body Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Team. If an incident involves Lymm Rugby Club’s Safeguarding Officer you should inform the Lymm Rugby Clubs’ Youth Chairman and either the Constituent Body Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team, details of which can be found at the end of this policy.
3. All members of Lymm Rugby Club who work with children in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21.
4. Lymm Rugby Club 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.
5. Lymm Rugby Club 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. The Club 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.
6. Lymm Rugby Club does not tolerate bullying in any form, including physical, verbal and emotional. Lymm Rugby Club encourages any such behaviour to be reported to the safeguarding officer for appropriate action under the terms of the RFU’s anti-bullying policy.
7. Lymm Rugby Club will ensure that the club workforce both voluntary and paid following a successful recruitment process, undergo DBS clearance, if appropriate and agree not to work with children unsupervised, until such time as a successful DBS check is in place. All staff (paid or voluntary) will undergo an induction which will include the identification of any training needs, signposting to relevant documentation such as; Codes of Conduct and Codes of Good Practice and the Club’s and the RFU’s Safeguarding Policies.
8. Lymm Rugby Club will ensure that its coaches and team managers will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role. The RFU “Managing Challenging Behaviour” Policy has been adopted and circulated amongst the club workforce both, voluntary and paid.
9. Lymm Rugby Club will ensure that when practical, parental consent will be obtained for photographs to be taken whilst a child is at the Club or at an away fixture and that all images taken are appropriate and used appropriately in line with the RFU Safeguarding Policy and guidance.
10. Lymm Rugby Club will ensure that where possible Club officials will communicate Club details through parents and/or carers and not through children directly, this includes through telephone, social networking sites and email.
11. Lymm Rugby Club ensures that the adult to child ratios are met, with at least one DBS checked adult in charge of any group of children. This guideline applies to any Club tours, where an additional full risk assessment will also be undertaken and require the approval of the safeguarding officer before any tour takes place.
12. Any events held on Lymm Rugby Club’s premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate a Safeguarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected including the club safeguarding officer.
13. Photographic Policy is in line with RFU guidance. We will ensure:

* We gain parental consent for photographs or video to be taken when a child is registered for membership and any cases where this has not been granted will be raised to the head coach and safeguarding officer so that they are aware.
* Personal information which can lead to a child being identified will only be used, for example in a match report, if we get written parental consent beforehand.
* Photography or video content will be of the match and activity not of one individual.
* When we play another team, we will agree consent for photographs or video to be taken with the opposing coaches.
* We may ask parents to register their intent to take photographs.

1. Lymm Rugby Club will ensure that any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by the Club must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours, ensuring an appropriate risk assessment is undertaken and signed off by the Safeguarding Officer.

**Please remember**

If a child has disclosed concerning information to you OR you have witnessed or had reported to you an incident or complaint involving the behaviour of an adult in relation to a child, which may be considered abuse or poor practice – please contact the Club Safeguarding Officer.

**STAY CALM - REASSURE - NO PROMISES - FEW QUESTIONS**

If the victim is in need of urgent medical treatment, please contact the emergency services.

At the earliest convenience complete the Lymm RFC Accident Form and return to the Club Safeguarding Officer.

The Accident Form can be found at https://www.lymmrugby.co.uk/minis-juniors/mj-coaching-information/

**Key Contacts**

The Club Safeguarding Officer is Ralph Tucker

ralphtucker@sky.com, 07812220018

The Club Mini & Junior Chairman is Will Hind

Will.hind.lymmrugby@gmail.com, 07721661884

The Constituent Body Safeguarding Manager is Colin Free

[colinfree@btconnect.com](mailto:colinfree@btconnect.com), 07770 362117

**Useful links**

**RFU Safeguarding**

<https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding>

**RFU Safeguarding Children Policy**

https://www.englandrugby.com//dxdam/8a/8a4d35ee-0a0a-458d-8bcc-20dba6ff3065/safeguardingpolicybooklet.pdf

**RFU Advice for Children**

https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/advice-for-children

**RFU Regulations including 15 (Age Grade Rugby) and 21 (Safeguarding)**

https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/rules-and-regulations/regulations