



## **SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTING CHILDREN IN RUGBY LEAGUE**

### **Newsletter 2 – July 2007**

#### **VETTING & BARRING**

Vetting & Barring is one of the measures which will be introduced under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (SVGA) 2006 which takes effect from September 2006.

The SVGA will result in new legal requirements for anyone working with children and vulnerable adults – in this context working includes volunteering. There will be one list of people who are barred from working with children or vulnerable adults which will bring together the current lists such as List 99, POVA, POCA & Disqualification Orders.

All junior sport including Rugby League (defined as Under 18s) will be a "regulated activity" under the SVGA. A Regulated activity is defined as paid and unpaid work (volunteering) that involves certain close contact with children (e.g. caring for, training, supervising or being in sole charge of children, or where people are in a position to influence policy relating to children's rugby league). This includes referees, coaches, CWOs and first aiders.

In time it will become a criminal offence for anyone to be in a paid or unpaid role, working with children or vulnerable adults as described above, if they have not completed an enhanced CRB disclosure and been registered with the Vetting Scheme. It will also be a criminal offence to allow somebody who is barred or somebody who has not been registered with the Vetting Scheme to work with children.

However there will be a staged roll out of the Scheme through sectors and it is likely that the statutory sectors eg social workers, health & education workers will be first starting from September 2008. At this stage there isn't a date from which it will be rolled out in the sports sector. We will keep you updated on this over forthcoming months as there are obvious implications for the sport.

#### **CRB ROLL OUT**

Over the next few weeks the RFL will be writing to those clubs who don't have many coaches with CRB checks to encourage them to submit applications.

The RFL processed its 3,000<sup>th</sup> CRB in July 2007 and the level of applications continues to rise. However there is still a long way to go. Stacey Thompson can send you CRB forms and a guide to completing them and is always on hand to deal with questions.

#### **CLUB WELFARE OFFICERS (CWOs)**

The RFL has set a target of getting a CWO in place in every club running a junior section by the end of 2007. We're also asking if existing CWOs can help at all – especially in the following:

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## 1 CRB CHECKING

To help with the roll out of CRBs across the sport the RFL is trying to establish a regional network of CRB form checkers. If you are a CWO who is already confident in checking CRB application forms and would be prepared to have your contact details circulated as somebody who will check CRBs on behalf of the RFL in your region please contact us. This is particularly important for new CWOs who need to get their own documents checked so that they can get their own CRB.

## 2 HELP TO NEW CWOs

If you are an experienced CWO would you be prepared to give practical advice to new CWOs in your area? If so please let us know so that we can pass your details on to new CWOs.

### EXTRACT FROM CRB NEWS WATCH

The following are extracts from the CRB's monthly extract of news stories relating to CRBs.

*The **Craven Herald and Pioneer** reported that Frank McCrossan Crampsey was arrested after being taken on as a steward at Earby's Easter Egg Hunt. As a sex offender Mr McCrossan was prohibited from being with or having contact with children under 16 by a Sex Offences Prevention Order (SOPO). Earby Development Group, a volunteer organisation which provides free community events for the town has postponed its June event until all volunteers have been CRB checked.*

*The **Yorkshire Post** reported that George Sully, a paedophile with convictions dating back 38 years, was found guilty of sexually assaulting a young girl whilst volunteering on the Thomas the Tank Engine theme ride. The employer has been heavily criticised as they did not ask for a CRB check before employing him.*

### TRAINING FOR CWOs

Bookings are now being taken for the following courses:

**Safeguarding & Protecting Children** – this course is recommended for all involved with coaching children and is a foundation course for CWOs before the Time To Listen course.

Date	Venue
29.08.07	Ince Rose Bridge, Wigan. 18:00 – 21:00
TBC	Leeds
TBC	Cumbria
TBC	Hull

The Course is **free** for registered CWOs and costs £10 for junior coaches etc. CWOs will be given priority for places on these courses.

In addition if you want to host a course at your club for your junior coaches and can get 20 people together – perhaps you could run a shared course with a neighbouring club - then please contact us to discuss arrangements. These will cost £10 per person.

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You can also source local courses in your area via the Sports Coach UK website – [www.sportscoachuk.org](http://www.sportscoachuk.org) , click onto the Quick Locate Workshops and click onto your area. Then click on the workshops for a list of Safeguarding & Protecting Workshops in your area.

## **EDUCATION STRATEGY**

The full education strategy is going through the last consultative stages and will be published on the In League Together section of the RFL Website in due course.

## **RESPECT TRAINING**

Many clubs have found it beneficial to get all parents together before the start of the season to have a RESPECT session. It helps to set out the standards of behaviour expected from players, coaches and parents before the season starts which in turn makes it easier to deal with anybody who fails to meet these standards later in the season because everybody should be clear about what is expected.

RESPECT booklets are available from the RFL or from RL Services on request. In addition the RFL website [www.rfl.uk.com](http://www.rfl.uk.com) under the RESPECT banner contains the RESPECT Club Presentation, a RESPECT brochure and other resources which you may find useful.

## **POSITIVE COACHING**

Although Dean Bell has now returned to New Zealand the Positive Coaching initiative will be continuing – more details soon.

## **WHAT'S IN A NAME ...**

Over recent months there has been a move away from using the term “Child Protection” at the CPSU. The CPSU believes that the term “Safeguarding and Protecting” is a more accurate use of language. You will see this reflected more and more in the names used in this area.

For instance “Child Protection Officers” have become “Club Welfare Officers”, the old Sports Coach UK (scuk) “Good Practice in Child Protection” course has been renamed “Safeguarding & Protecting Children”.

## **CRB FORMS**

Just a reminder that only the RFL registered signatories ie Emma Rosewarne and Dean Hardman can sign the final box (Section Y) on a CRB form. All CRB forms must be forwarded to Red Hall to be checked and have the final signature added.

## **RFL Guidance regarding Recruiting and Selecting Volunteers.**

It is the unfortunate truth that some individuals do have poor intent regarding children and it is the responsibility of the RFL and clubs to ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children in Rugby League.

The below guidance shows the steps in an ideal recruitment and selection process – the Child Protection Policy has some useful templates to help in this process.

### **Planning**

Draw up a job description, person specification and minimum requirements, e.g. Rugby League Coaching Level 2, First Aid Certificate.

### **Advertising**

Advertise locally or online for the position, stating that a clear recruitment process (including CRB checks) will be followed.

### **Application Form**

Application forms are very useful as they are a method to collect information on an applicant and form an important part of any recruitment process. This will give you some information from which to base any recruitment decision on.

### **Interview**

The RFL recommend meeting applicant before making a decision on their suitability. The interview will enable the Club to verify any information by checking identification documents, driving licence etc.

The interview does not have to be overly formal and may just be an informal meeting in the Clubhouse.

### **References**

Clubs should always seek at least 2 references before making a recruitment decision. Ideally one reference should be from paid employment or education and the other reference should be in a sporting capacity, ideally in a role similar to the one they are applying for.

### **Self Disclosure and CRB Check**

The applicant should be asked to complete a CRB check and a self disclosure form and return them to the RFL for processing. Upon receipt of the CRB Disclosure, the RFL will make a decision on whether or not there is any reason to prevent that individual working within Rugby League.

### **Induction**

New volunteers should be introduced to the RFL's Safeguarding & Protecting Children Policy, the Club's Safeguarding & Protecting Children Policy and any other policies the Club deems are necessary.

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### **Ongoing Performance Appraisal**

It is important that the performance of the new volunteer is monitored. Consideration should be given to reviewing the progress formally after 3 months and at the end of each season. Consideration should also be given to having a period where the new volunteer is mentored by a senior person at the Club.

### **OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT & OTHER CONTACT DETAILS**

Until the review of Child Protection matters is complete the main point of contact in the RFL for Child Protection issues is the Operations Department. In particular:

Emma Rosewarne	<b>Acting Lead Child Protection Officer</b>
<a href="mailto:emma.rosewarne@rfl.uk.com">emma.rosewarne@rfl.uk.com</a>	Direct Line 0113-237-5013      Mobile 07850 483736

Dean Hardman	<b>Acting Deputy Child Protection Officer and Lead on Child Protection Education Strategy</b>
<a href="mailto:dean.hardman@rfl.uk.com">dean.hardman@rfl.uk.com</a>	Direct Line 0113-237-5041

Stacey Thompson	<b>CRB Officer</b>
<a href="mailto:stacey.thompson@rfl.uk.com">stacey.thompson@rfl.uk.com</a>	Direct Line 0113-237-5036

Emma Rosewarne's mobile number can be used as an emergency number to ask for support or to make an initial report of an incident at any time. In addition anybody who has an issue or a question can email the Operations team on the dedicated email address:

[child.protection@rfl.uk.com](mailto:child.protection@rfl.uk.com)

The NSPCC Child Protection Helpline is 0808 800 5000.

Your Local Safeguarding Children Board will also be able to give advice in cases which you think needs statutory agency input.

### **Child Protection Information Poster**

Enclosed is a poster for you to display in your club house with your name and contact details in the space provided. Let us know if you need any more.

### **NEXT NEWSLETTER**

If you have any topics you'd like to see covered let the Operations team know. Maybe you would like to share ideas or good practice or would like hypothetical questions answered.

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