



SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTING CHILDREN IN RUGBY LEAGUE Newsletter 9 – February 2008

“The Child’s Welfare is Paramount”

PARENTS LEAFLET

Please find enclosed a copy of the new RFL Guide for Parents & Carers. This leaflet has been produced by the RFL for all clubs to give to parents at their club. It covers what a club can expect from a parent and what the parent can expect from a club. The leaflet is available as a free resource for clubs and we’ve enclosed an order form which you can use to order this leaflet and other centrally produced resources. Please use one of the pre paid envelopes (only CWOs will have received these) to send the order form back to us.

SOCIAL SERVICES, POLICE & LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARDS (LSCB)

Unfortunately there may be occasions when your club is contacted by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) or Social Services who may be investigating a concern about a volunteer or child at your club. In these cases you should follow the normal reporting procedure and contact the RFL Safeguarding team who will be able to offer support and advice. In addition the RFL can, where necessary, impose a Temporary Suspension Order on the individual.

IMPORTANT REMINDER – RFL CHANGING ROOM POLICY

Further to December’s newsletter can we remind all clubs that adults (ie coaches, referees etc) **MUST NOT** shower with junior players.

CWO SURVEY

Please find enclosed a brief CWO Survey. We would appreciate your feedback on what the RFL is currently doing around Safeguarding issues and suggestions on how we can better support the work that is being carried out by clubs. Please take a moment to complete the survey and send it in to us – CWOs can use the pre paid envelopes.

RESOURCE & TRAINING REQUISITION FORMS

We’ve enclosed requisition forms to help clubs order the various resources or training courses available from the RFL. Again CWOs can use the pre paid envelopes to send the forms to us.

YOUTH COMMITTEES OR YOUTH PANELS

One of issues which is key to ensuring that children play rugby league in a happy environment is to make sure that children’s voices are heard and listened to in the game. This applies to all of us in clubs, leagues and governing bodies. Throughout the game it is important that children are listened to and respected as individuals.

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The RFL is looking for examples of clubs that operate a culture that listens to children so if your club has a committee or panel of children please can you let us know so clubs can learn from your experience and we can showcase examples of good practice in this area.

Youth Panels give children or young people an opportunity to have a say in how their club is run and how to improve their experience at the club. If you set up a Youth Panel then of course it's important that the ideas that come from it are acted upon or a valid explanation is given as to why the ideas are impractical. Clubs should be clear in advance what the Panel's role will be so that unrealistic expectations are not built up.

The following are some suggestions of areas in which a Youth Panel would have a useful input:

- Discussions around acceptable behaviour at the club
- How children & young people want to be treated at the club & production of a children & young people's code of conduct
- Discussions around why they attend the club and what they want to get out of their time there
- An opportunity to raise concerns about individuals or practices at the club
- Select playing kit design
- Opportunities to get involved in Step Into Sport (volunteering for young people)

If your club is thinking of setting up a Youth Panel the following are useful tips:

- Provide adult support to the group eg the CWO and at least one other senior volunteer
- Let the children and young people direct the group don't try to control it
- Treat the Youth Panel with respect
- Deal with issues raised by the Panel and report back to them

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY UPDATE

RFL has recently appointed Equality and Diversity Manager, Sarah Williams, to work with the governing body and clubs towards being one of the first sports to achieve the intermediate and advanced levels of the Equality Standard. We aim to build on Rugby league's rich history of welcoming people from all backgrounds and its reputation of being a genuinely family sport. We also want to recognize and build on the fantastic innovative projects that many rugby league clubs have set up so that their clubs can truly be described as a community club rather than a club in the community.

We will be striving to make sure that everyone involved in Rugby league will respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and that every person will be able to participate in Rugby league regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion, faith, disability or sexuality. This can only be done with the continued support and commitment of everyone involved with Rugby league.

We aim to increase participation and ensure that rugby league is truly inclusive is by raising the profile of rugby league among groups that have yet to discover the joys of the game. Practical ways of achieving this are by attending various Melas, festivals and Pride events around the country, having key rugby documents on audio tape for people with visual impairments and providing training on equality and diversity. So that everyone is kept up to date with Equality and Diversity issues, over the next few months we will be promoting In League Together as a brand representing inclusiveness and participation and via the website and Equality & Diversity bulletin.

If you would like to get more involved in promoting Equality and Diversity there will be many opportunities for individuals and clubs to get involved some possibilities are:

- Equity Officer can contact Sarah for information and support around Equality and Diversity
- Identify member of the club, a player, coach or volunteer to be a role model promoting equality and diversity and pass on their contact details to Sarah

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- Promote your clubs projects and achievements working with different communities by emailing details and information to Sarah for inclusion in the Bulletin and website
- Encourage match day feedback from players, volunteers, spectators and officials – access issues, entertainment provided, behaviour then act on that information
- Reporting any incidences of abusive or offensive language and behaviour to stewards at the time or to the RFL at feedback@rfl.uk.com.
- Follow RESPECT guidelines see RFL website to download the guidelines

If you want to find out more, provide any feedback on all aspects of equality and Diversity in Rugby league or get involved then contact Sarah Williams Equality & Diversity Manger, at Red Hall, Red Hall Lane Leeds LS17 8NB, Tel: 0113 2375037 or email sarah.williams@rfl.uk.com

COURSES

Positive Coaching – The following Positive Coaching courses still have available spaces.

Date	Venue	Contact
12 th March	Craven Park, Hull	Matt Danby – Matt.Danby@hullcc.gov.uk
16 th April	Hunslet Parkside	Colin Cooper – bigcooper73@hotmail.com
23 rd April	Shaw Cross	Colin Cooper – bigcooper73@hotmail.com

Positive Coaching gives coaches the understanding of how to create a positive environment whilst ensuring that all players are enjoying the game. Dave Rotherham, Tommy Martyn and Gary Chambers are tutors on Positive Coaching so you can learn from some experienced coaches and players

Safeguarding & Protecting Children Courses - More and more clubs are now asking for this course to be run at their club house for coaches and volunteers. The RFL continues to subsidise the courses so contact Stacey Thompson if you want to organise a course at your club.

Equity in Your Coaching – The RFL is happy to put on an Equity in Your Coaching course for clubs in association with SCUUK. As you will be aware Equity in Your Coaching is one of the requirements of Club Mark and is also key to ensuring that all children whatever their backgrounds are protected from abuse and/or poor practice. Please contact Stacey to put your name on a waiting list.

Time to Listen – This is a course specific for Club Welfare Officers and goes into more detail regarding policies and procedures than Safeguarding & Protecting Children. Time to Listen will be rolled out early this year – details to follow.

SECOND RECORD MONTH FOR NEW CWOs

February is another record month for new CWOs registering. 34 have registered so far this month already beating the January total of 30 which was itself a record. Welcome to all the new CWOs and please get in touch if you need any help or advice.

TALENT ID & RECRUITMENT PERSONNEL (SCOUTS) CODE OF CONDUCT

The following is the recently revised Code of Conduct for Talent ID & Recruitment Personnel often known as scouts. If you are aware of scouts breached the Code of Conduct at your club please report them to the RFL.

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“The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to protect the welfare of young players in the game, particularly those that are identified as being talented, and to ensure that their treatment is in line with the RFL Safeguarding policy.

Talent identification and recruitment personnel should:

- ❖ Be fully aware of the RFL’s Safeguarding Policy and act in accordance with that policy at all times
- ❖ Be appointed by the club, according to the recruitment procedures detailed in the Safeguarding Policy and related policies and procedures
- ❖ Be licensed by the RFL following a cleared CRB check, to be undertaken every three years
- ❖ Be issued with a photo-identity card by the RFL, to be carried whenever attending a Rugby League event or match (such card to be issued on an annual basis)
- ❖ Inform a club official of their attendance and present their ID card when requesting team information

- ❖ Request permission to speak to players after the match from a club official
- ❖ Only speak to players after receiving permission and only when the player is accompanied by a parent or club official
- ❖ Show their ID card prior to speaking to the individual player or his parent/guardian.
- ❖ Never put themselves in a position of being on their own with a player
- ❖ Never enter changing or showering facilities
- ❖ Refrain from making comments about players to spectators

- ❖ Fully acquaint themselves of the current Scholarship Register as issued to clubs by the RFL
- ❖ Never approach a player who is on the Scholarship register of another club and to adhere to the procedure and timetable of making a “Declaration of Intent” as laid down in the Scholarship Rules & Regulations
- ❖ Always follow the procedure for the “Contracting and Registering a Year 11 player”
- ❖ Understand and abide by the permitted numbers and age groups of the Scholarship Rules & Regulations
- ❖ Avoid speaking to clubs, players, parents/guardians if the scout’s professional club is restricted from signing the player by the RFL’s regulations e.g.; no scholarship place available

- ❖ Refrain from asking questions to spectators about players, all questions should be directed to a club official
- ❖ Refrain from criticizing other professional clubs
- ❖ Act according to the highest standards of integrity and ensure that the reputation of Club and League is not damaged by their behaviour
- ❖ Respect the rights and choices of all human beings, treating everyone equally and sensitively regardless of their age, ethnic origin, gender, special needs including learning and physical disabilities, class or social background, , cultural background, sexual orientation, religion or political affiliation
- ❖ Ensure that all players are encouraged to achieve their full potential at all levels
- ❖ Ensure that all players are afforded respect, confidentiality and privacy in a playing and training situation and any other Rugby League environment.”

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Thank you to Halton Farnworth Hornets (January edition) and East Leeds who have shared information about their clubs in recent newsletters. If you’ve got anything you’d like to put in the newsletter please send it through to us. Alternatively if you would like a hypothetical question addressed or topics you’d like some information on – contact any of the team below.

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OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT & OTHER CONTACT DETAILS

Emma Rosewarne emma.rosewarne@rfl.uk.com	Acting Lead Safeguarding Officer Direct Line 0113-237-5013	Mobile 07850 483736
Dean Hardman dean.hardman@rfl.uk.com	Deputy Safeguarding Officer & Lead Safeguarding Education Strategy Direct Line 0113-237-5041	
Stacey Thompson stacey.thompson@rfl.uk.com	CRB Officer 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. Anybody who has an issue or a question can email the Operations team on the dedicated email address: safeguarding@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.

The RFL would like to thank the CPSU and other sports, particularly the ECB & FA, for sharing their policies and templates and allowing the RFL to adapt materials for its own use.

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