



SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTING CHILDREN IN RUGBY LEAGUE Newsletter 8 – January 2008

“The Child’s Welfare is Paramount”

ADVANCE NOTICE – A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The RFL is running a CWO Conference on either Saturday 26 or Sunday 27 July 2008. The Conference will be run prior to one of the Carnegie Challenge Cup semi finals with tickets to the match available for all who want to stay for it. The venue and date will be confirmed straight after the quarter finals which take place on the weekend 1 June. This is to ensure that the venue chosen is best for the event.

We intend to have a variety of speakers and work shops together with the opportunity for informal sharing of experiences with other CWOs over lunch. Please let us know of any items you would be particularly keen to see covered. Please put the weekend in your diary, we look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

CLUB AND COACH DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

From the end of January, the RFL are pleased to be able to announce the introduction of Club and Coach Development Officers (CCDO's) who will be out full time within the Coaching community offering continuing support

The CCDO's will be focused around the club environment, especially Club mark clubs, to provide support on the ground to develop coach development.

As a result, the Coaching section is pleased to be able to offer a whole new service in 2008. Should you have a League meeting or Coaching meeting where you feel you need further information from us or if you are an individual Club in need of additional support, we now have systems in place to enable us to support you in person. Appointments need to be made in advance and Coach Education can tailor their delivery to your individual requirements. This also applies to support with the Bridging process.

Please contact Fiona Allen, Centre Approval and Accreditation Manager, Coach Education, RFL, Red Hall, Red Hall Lane, Leeds, LS17 8NB - Phone - 0113 237 5010 - Fax - 0113 237 5522 - fiona.allen@rfl.uk.com for more details

REGIONAL WELFARE OFFICERS

The RFL is in the process of appointing and training Regional Welfare Officers (RWOs) for each of the main playing leagues and/or regional areas. Eventually there should be two RWOs in each of the following areas: North West Counties, Cumbria, Hull, Yorkshire & West Yorkshire, London & the South, Wales, North East, Scotland and Girls Rugby League.

It is proposed that the main roles of a RWO will be:-

- Encourage best practice
- Encourage roll out of CRB checking
- Ensure each club in his or her area has a CWO in post
- Promote the RFL's education opportunities
- Act as a point of contact should a member of a club have a concern or query
- Refer concerns or queries to the RFL where appropriate.

As soon as all the RWOs are in place and trained we'll forward details to all CWOs.

NEW COMPLIANCE MANAGER AT THE RFL

The RFL has appointed a new full time Compliance Manager, lawyer, Karen Moorhouse. Karen has joined the RFL from McCormick's, a law firm specialising in sport and media law. Previously Karen was an in house lawyer at the FA and graduated from Cambridge University with a first class degree in law. Karen comes from Yorkshire and used to play rugby union for Wharfedale RU Club.

As Compliance Manager Karen will sit on the RFL's Safeguarding Case Management Group which decides what route cases of poor practice or abuse reported to the RFL should follow. Where a case is serious enough to be forwarded for a hearing in front of the Operational Rules Tribunal, Karen will also be responsible for presenting the RFL's case to the Tribunal.

SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS MONTH

Halton Farnworth Hornets ARLFC are running a Safeguarding Awareness Month to ensure that everyone involved in the club is aware of the policies and procedures in place.

This is a fantastic initiative to ensure that everyone involved in the club is aware of the Hornets' club ethos.

If you would like to run a Safeguarding Awareness week or month, please contact the RFL Operations Department for advice and resources.

If you have any best practice that you would like highlighting that can benefit other clubs please contact the RFL Safeguarding team and we will put it in the next newsletter.

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UPDATE ON VETTING & BARRING

The government has set up a body the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to roll out the proposals on vetting and barring.

When this system becomes fully operational it will be illegal to allow anybody to work or volunteer with children if they are not registered on the ISA Scheme. Registration with the scheme will go hand in hand with a CRB check and it is currently anticipated that both will use the same form.

ISA registration will bring together the current POCA, POVA and List 99 information under one scheme but the CRB check will still be required to check whether an applicant has a criminal record including for instance violence or drug dealing which could make them unsuitable to work with children.

One major change is that once the proposals are in place it will be a criminal offence to allow anybody who is not registered with the ISA scheme to work or volunteer with children. Originally the ISA planned to roll out the scheme sector by sector ie education, then health etc however it now appears that they will roll out in the following order:

- 1 Volunteers or workers joining a company or club for the first time or changing clubs or roles within a club;
- 2 Volunteers or workers who have never had an Enhanced Disclosure CRB or have not had one recently;
- 3 Volunteers or workers who have previously had an Enhanced Disclosure CRB.

The RFL along with others sports governing bodies is involved in the consultation process with ISA and as information about how the scheme will be rolled out in sport becomes available we will keep you informed.

COURSES

Positive Coaching - Positive Coaching courses will be available this year and places can be reserved by contacting the Regional Playing Leagues – alternatively the RFL is happy to organise courses if enough clubs wish – contact Stacey Thompson for details. Courses are run by Suzanne Taylor supported by one of the RFL tutors - Tommy Martyn, Gary Chambers and Dave Rotherham have taken on this role in place of Dean Bell who has returned to New Zealand.

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.

Thanks are due to the following clubs who have recently run courses for their coaches and volunteers: Dewsbury Celtic, Leeds Rhinos, Shaw Cross, West Craven Warriors and Whinmoor Warriors.

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The following clubs have all booked courses in the near future: Blackpool Scorpions, Halton Farnworth Hornets, New Earswick All Blacks, New Springs Legions Lions and Oldham Service Area

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.

RECORD MONTH FOR NEW CWOs

The RFL is aiming to have a CWO in position at every club or organisation that needs one by the end of 2008. Unfortunately there is still a long way to go with a number of clubs who have not appointed a CWO.

However the good news is that already during January alone 24 new CWOs have registered with the RFL. This is a record number for any month and almost double the previous highest number.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Please let us have any news items from your club, hypothetical questions you'd like answered or topics you'd like some information on – contact any of the team below.

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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