



SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTING CHILDREN IN RUGBY LEAGUE

Newsletter 14 – July 2008

“The Child’s Welfare is Paramount”

TACKLE IT! SUPPLEMENT

This month we’ve produced a Tackle It! supplement which we hope you’ll find useful.

NEW SAFEGUARDING POLICY

We’re pleased to announce that the new RFL Safeguarding Policy has just been published – your copy is enclosed. We hope that the new format is easier to use and to follow. It also contains all the new legislation which has come into force since the original policy was written. All of the templates and appendices are available from the RFL website www.rfl.uk.com as stand alone documents or can be ordered on the Resource Requisition Form (updated form enclosed). You may also request additional copies of the policy for those that you believe need the full policy – please use your judgement on whether somebody needs the full policy or whether their needs can be met by providing the relevant templates and appendices.

SAFEGUARDING CASE MANAGEMENT POST

The RFL is looking for a suitably qualified person to work on Safeguarding Case Management on a part time consultancy contract basis. A Role Description is enclosed and displayed on the RFL website. If you are interested in applying please download the RFL application form which is on the website in the About Us – Jobs section.

NEW RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT

The new revised RESPECT Code of Conduct brochure is available from the RFL from early August – you can place orders on the Resource Requisition Form which will be fulfilled as soon as the brochure arrives from the printers.

The brochure contains updated photographs and the text now includes a specific Safeguarding reference in the introductory paragraph as follows:

“ Participants in the game of Rugby League – players, parents, spectators, coaches, match officials, other volunteers and administrators of all ages – should:

- Accept the moral & legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for children (under the age of 18), safeguard their well being and protect them from abuse and poor practice.”

The new RESPECT Code of Conduct also includes a Children’s Code of Conduct which has been drawn up by Children within the game.

Issued by the RFL July 2008. Every effort has been made by the RFL to ensure accuracy in this information at the time of going to press. However this is meant as general advice and will not necessarily apply to all situations so for specific advice please contact the RFL direct.

CHILDREN'S LEAFLET

The new Children's Leaflet will also be available from early August. There are two similar leaflets with varying designs and contents, which give children all the information they need to be comfortable and safe in a Rugby League club. These can also be used as a recruitment tool. The first is aimed at the U11 age group and the second at the 12-18 age group. Again we are accepting pre orders for these leaflets now. Please feel free to order one or two samples before deciding how many you need in total.

CWO CONFERENCE

A big thank you to everybody who attended the CWO Conference on 27 July in Doncaster – an audience of around 80 delegates attended including CWOs from Wales, Scotland, London and the Midlands as well as CWOs from clubs in the Yorkshire, Humberside, Cumbria and North West Counties Leagues. There were excellent and thought provoking presentations from guest speakers and the initial feedback suggests that most delegates thoroughly enjoyed the day despite the hotel's lack of air conditioning or windows!! All of the supporting PowerPoint presentations are on the Safeguarding section of the RFL website.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

A few people have mentioned that they receive the newsletter twice. Unfortunately the way we keep our data bases means that it is difficult to avoid this where people hold more than one role. Apologies if this is you!! We will try to move to a more sophisticated system in the future. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter at all please let Stacey Thompson know.

We are happy to send the newsletter either by post or email to anybody in your club who is interested so if you have coaches or committee members who would like a copy please let Stacey know.

PLAYER PROFILE/PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

Please find enclosed a Player Profile/Parental Consent Form which the RFL has drawn up for clubs to use if they chose. Many clubs have excellent systems for collecting this data and the necessary consents and this form is not mandatory but is provided as a resource which clubs can chose to use. Forms can be ordered from the RFL on the Resource Requisition Form or downloaded from the RFL website.

POSITIVE COACHING

The RFL is now taking bookings for Positive Coaching courses on behalf of Suzanne Taylor and her team of tutors. In addition the RFL is subsidizing the course which is now available at £200 for up to 40 coaches rather than the previous cost of £400. If you would like to arrange a course in your area please contact Fiona Allen in the RFL Coaching Department on 0113-237-5010 or Fiona.allen@rfl.uk.com . A flyer for the Positive Coaching course is included in this newsletter.

Issued by the RFL July 2008. Every effort has been made by the RFL to ensure accuracy in this information at the time of going to press. However this is meant as general advice and will not necessarily apply to all situations so for specific advice please contact the RFL direct.

CRB – FINGERPRINTING PROCESS

Occasionally CRB applicants have to have their finger prints taken as part of the process – the extract from the CRB newsletter below explains why this is sometimes necessary.

“The CRB has been asked why it is sometimes necessary for applicants to go through the unpopular procedure of having their fingerprints taken. Disclosure News aims to clarify the matter.

Sometimes the information available to the CRB is not sufficient for it to be able to be certain that a particular criminal record does not belong to an applicant. This may be because the details on the record are very similar to those of the applicant or there is insufficient information to disassociate the applicant from that record without a further check. The CRB uses all the available information to try to clarify the match but where a definite decision cannot be made, the CRB will always err on the side of caution and release the information.

The CRB would rather release the information and if it is disputed, clarify the applicant’s true record using fingerprints. This is obviously preferable to not releasing a full criminal history and facing the possible repercussions of allowing an inappropriate person access to a vulnerable member of society.

Where the CRB is unable to make a definite decision, it is necessary to ask the applicant to provide their fingerprints for the purpose of elimination. If the applicant gives consent, all relevant documentation is passed to the local police force which then arranges an appointment to take the applicant’s fingerprints; these are checked against those held on the Police National Computer. The police will then either confirm the conviction relates to the applicant or agree that the information should be removed from the individual’s Disclosure.

All correspondence is conducted via the Registered or Umbrella Body, to reduce the time taken to process an application. The CRB has introduced a monitoring system for cases requiring fingerprinting which is successfully further reducing the processing time for the majority of cases.”

YOUTH FORUMS

The RFL has held another “Youth Forum” this month, this time at Whitehaven School.

The main purposes of the forums is to allow children’s voices to be heard on matters that affect them, whilst also understanding how effective the RFL Safeguarding policies are from the view point of the people the policies are designed to protect. The feedback received will also play a major part of the drawing up of a Children’s Code of Conduct.

The RFL worked in conjunction with Whitehaven School and Whitehaven RLFC who provided a fitting venue, a facilitator and some coaches who took 2 sessions as rewards for the fantastic input from the youngsters which will now help to mould the way the RFL develops policies and procedures moving forwards.

The RFL are already planning other Youth Forums in different regions of the country, including junior match officials, players from BME communities and players on the representative pathway.

Issued by the RFL July 2008. Every effort has been made by the RFL to ensure accuracy in this information at the time of going to press. However this is meant as general advice and will not necessarily apply to all situations so for specific advice please contact the RFL direct.

Dean Hardman, RFL Deputy Safeguarding Officer, who facilitated the session said "These forums are really useful to ensure that all of our policies and procedures are child focussed and that we take into account the opinions of young people when producing them."

When all of the Youth Forums have been held we will use the information gathered to draw up a Children's Code of Conduct which will be published along with a summary of findings.

I want to run a Youth Forum at my club... How do I do it?

The methodology for a Youth Forum is flexible and simple. The forums the RFL have run have been very different in terms of facilities, children and time scales. It is essential to keep the groups relatively small so that every young person has the opportunity to put their opinions forward comfortably. The most important part of facilitating these sessions is to allow the children to speak and not to try to steer them in a particular direction or finish their sentences for them – let the young people discover what they want to say!

Some of the sessions we have done or have planned are open discussions, completing spider diagrams, sessions where the players have to write something or sessions based around watching a DVD or reading an article or leaflet and feeding back on it.

It is important that the young people want to be there and are comfortable with the issues that are being discussed; there should always be the facility for a young player to talk to someone privately if they are feeling uncomfortable.

RESOURCES – AUDIO OR BRAILLE

The RFL can provide any of the Safeguarding resources in audio format or Braille on request so please let us know if you need resources in either of these formats.

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.

Issued by the RFL July 2008. Every effort has been made by the RFL to ensure accuracy in this information at the time of going to press. However this is meant as general advice and will not necessarily apply to all situations so for specific advice please contact the RFL direct.