

RFL Safeguarding and Protecting Children Education Strategy



**IN LEAGUE
TOGETHER**

RFL Safeguarding and Protecting Children Education Strategy

Programme Strategy

Vision

To ensure that all relevant individuals within the game, including, but not limited to, Coaches, Players, Match Officials and Club Welfare Officers, have confidence in their ability to protect and safeguard the welfare of every child within Rugby League.

To ensure all adults within the game are able to recognise poor practice or intent and know how to report their concerns.

To create a generation of Players who are confident to report poor practice or intent.

To empower Rugby League Clubs and Officials to be competent and confident that they are contributing positively to children's lives, under the appropriate guidance and support of the RFL.

To achieve a greater level of awareness of Safeguarding and Protecting Children issues throughout the game.

Educate League's and Disciplinary Panels so that the procedures are appropriate and child focused.

Mission

The basic principle of the RFL's Safeguarding and Protecting Children education programme shall be to establish an environment which encourages all participants to take ownership for safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children.

Goals

The RFL commits to implementing this long-term Safeguarding and Protecting Children education strategy in order to encourage the Rugby League community to engage and participate in education programmes to promote best practice throughout the game.

We aim to raise awareness to positively influence beliefs, attitudes and behaviours, in order to create an atmosphere where the welfare of the child is paramount:

1. Establishing a generation of young players who are aware of Safeguarding and Protecting Children issues and feel confident to report any concerns
3. Increase the understanding of what constitutes abuse, poor practice and bullying, in order to enable those involved within the game to identify any potential issues and empower individuals to recognise when they may be displaying poor practice in their own behaviour.
4. Give people the confidence to report their concerns to the relevant agency.
5. Significantly increase the number of personnel at clubs who have attended a Safeguarding and Protecting Children course, namely Safeguarding and Protecting Children or Time To Listen.

6. Engage and develop RFL Safeguarding and Protecting Children Tutors by presenting co-tutoring opportunities and scope for further development.
7. Engage with and educate Club Welfare Officers on a regular basis
8. To create a pool of Service Area Welfare Officers who are educated to the required level in order for them to be effective in their role.
9. Increase awareness of Safeguarding and Protecting Children issues throughout the game.

Accredited Tutors

The RFL is committed to delivering quality education by using trained and accredited Tutors

The RFL currently have 11 Safeguarding and Protecting Tutors. We are currently arranging co-tutoring opportunities for the co-tutors in order that they can develop into full tutors.

The next stage in the process is to orientate the tutors to the Time To Listen course.

We will also encourage Club Welfare Officers to share Best Practice throughout the game.

How to Access Courses

- 1) The RFL organise some courses. These are publicised by email distribution and are displayed on the RFL Website. For further information or to book a place please email child.protection@rfl.uk.com or phone 0844 477 7113.
- 2) County Sport Partnerships organise Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses for non sport specific groups. Contact details for CSP's are in Appendix A.
- 3) If there are sufficient numbers within your club (12-20) the RFL will arrange a session just for your club. Please email child.protection@rfl.uk.com to arrange a session.

Programme Plan

The RFL will undertake the following activities in order to meet our objectives for Safeguarding and Protecting Children education provision during 2007/2008.

Target Group	Activity	Details/ Resources	Start Date
All Players	Poster Display RESPECT	Posters sent to all club CWO's. Contact details for CWO to be displayed in club house. Players to be made aware of the RESPECT campaign and it's main principles.	July 2007
Club Welfare Officers	Newsletters	Newsletter highlighting best practice and recent developments within the wider Safeguarding and Protecting Children environment, e.g. CRB news, Vetting & Barring.	Monthly for 6 months from June 2007 then bi-monthly
Club Welfare Officers	Safeguarding and Protecting Children course	Make available and promote	August 2007
Club Welfare Officers	Time To Listen course	Make available and promote	Early 2008
Service Area Welfare Officers	Time To Listen course	An enhanced version of the Time To Listen course is to be developed by the RFL/CPSU	Early 2008
RFL Congress – all Amateur clubs	Safeguarding and Protecting Children update at Congress	Introduced by Senior Director. Content delivered by SPC key figure. RFL materials to hand out.	November 2007
Parents	Guide to recognising best practice and RESPECT details	RFL to produce a guide which will be available online. RESPECT brochure/DVD	September 2007
Coaches	Safeguarding and Protecting Children course	Make available and promote the Time To Listen course. Targets tied in with Clubmark	Late 2007
Coaches	Positive Coaching and RESPECT	Positive Coaching to be rolled out and promoted throughout the game RESPECT brochure/DVD	Late 2007
Coaches	Guide to Child Protection to be reviewed	The Rugby League Coaches Guide to Child protection to be reviewed and promoted	November 2007
Tutors	Develop SPC Tutors	Provide opportunities for co-tutors to become fully accredited tutors and provide full tutors with opportunities to tutor.	September 2007
Tutors	Time To Listen orientation	Amend the course material and organise and promote the Time To Listen tutor orientation. Identify and recruit new tutors.	Early 2008

All within the game	Informative Safeguarding and Protecting Children section on the website RESPECT principles	RFL to invest time ensuring the Safeguarding and Protecting Children section of the website is informative, easy to use and updated when required. Keep profile of RESPECT high	August 2007
---------------------	--	--	-------------

Evaluation Plan

The RFL will evaluate the Safeguarding and Protecting Children Education Programme by:

- Keeping a record of the education and information delivered
- Regularly reviewing and updating this Education Strategy
- Seek feedback from individuals at the grass roots level to see how this strategy could be improved.