

WHITLEY BAY ROCKCLIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Approved: 4 July 2023 | Reviewed and Revised: 15 September 2026 | Next Review Due: September 2027

1. Whitley Bay Rockcliff Rugby Football Club ("the Club") is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all individuals involved in rugby and at the Club. This Policy sets out the Club's commitment to safeguarding adults, and the steps to be taken if concerns arise. This Policy is also adopted by Rockcliff Foundation.
2. Safeguarding children and young people under the age of 18 is covered in the Club's separate Safeguarding Children Policy. Where an activity or concern involves both children and adults at risk, both policies apply.
3. Whitley Bay Rockcliff RFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures, and to RFU Regulation 21, and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in those documents and any successor policy. The RFU Safeguarding Adults Policy is available at englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/safeguarding-adults.

Policy Statement

4. Whitley Bay Rockcliff RFC is fully committed to establishing and maintaining a secure and positive environment for all participants. The Club acknowledges its responsibility to protect individuals from poor practice, abuse and bullying. Every person within the Club — including players, members, volunteers, coaches and support staff — has a role and responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of adults.
5. The Club recognises its duty of care and is committed to doing everything reasonably expected to safeguard and protect individuals from harm. If the Club suspects that someone is being harmed or is at risk of harm, it will take appropriate action.

Understanding Adult Safeguarding

6. Adult safeguarding refers to the efforts made to keep adults with care and support needs safe from abuse or neglect. It is a crucial aspect of the services provided by many public institutions and a primary responsibility of local authorities under the Care Act 2014.
7. The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:
 - Has care and support needs, regardless of whether the local authority is meeting those needs;
 - Is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect; and
 - Is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect due to their care and support needs.
8. Individuals who meet these criteria are considered 'adults at risk'. People may require care and support for various reasons, such as learning disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic health conditions, or mental health issues. While these conditions may increase

vulnerability, having care and support needs does not automatically classify an individual as an adult at risk in need of safeguarding.

9. Safeguarding adults is supported by the Care Act 2014 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Types of Abuse

10. Types of abuse suffered by adults, as identified in the Care Act 2014, include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological, emotional or mental abuse
- Financial and material abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational abuse
- Modern-day slavery
- Domestic violence
- Self-neglect, including hoarding

11. Other forms of harm that adults may experience include cyberbullying, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, mate crime, and radicalisation.

Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding Training

12. Whitley Bay Rockcliff RFC places great emphasis on ensuring that all volunteers and staff possess the necessary skills and qualities to create a safe environment. The Club implements safer recruitment procedures and keeps its personnel updated on relevant legislation, policies and procedural changes. The Club will identify and provide appropriate training, including safeguarding adults training, in the same manner as set out in the Club's Safeguarding Children Policy.

Communication

13. The Club will make its Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures available to all staff, volunteers, members and partner organisations.

What to Do If You Have a Concern About an Adult

14. Members, staff and volunteers are not expected to be experts in recognising safeguarding concerns, but all adults working, volunteering or participating at the Club have a duty of care to be vigilant and to respond appropriately to suspicions of poor practice, abuse or bullying. It is essential to respond to any indications of abuse that may occur both within and outside the Club.

15. It is not your responsibility to determine whether a situation constitutes poor practice, abuse or bullying. It is your responsibility to report your concerns to the Club Safeguarding Officer, or the Deputy Club Safeguarding Officer if the Club Safeguarding Officer is unavailable, or the Club's Director of Safety, Health and Facilities, without delay, and in any event within 24 hours of becoming aware of the concern.

Club Safeguarding Officer

16. The Club Safeguarding Officer is:

Deborah Alderson

Telephone: 07854 605842

Email: wbr.debsalderson@gmail.com

The Deputy Club Safeguarding Officer is:

Shaun Malarkey

Telephone: 07939 239250

Email: s.malarkeywbr@gmail.com

The Deputy Club Safeguarding Officer is the second point of contact for safeguarding concerns whenever the Club Safeguarding Officer is unavailable, and is the primary contact for all matters relating to DBS certification.

17. The Club's Director of Safety, Health and Facilities is:

Dave Hill

Telephone: 07824 607955

Email: wbr.davehill@gmail.com

18. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer or the Deputy Club Safeguarding Officer, you should inform the Club's Director of Safety, Health and Facilities directly.

19. If you cannot contact someone within the Club, or feel that your concerns are not being dealt with properly, you can contact the RFU Safeguarding Team (englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/sharing-concerns), the North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board (ntsab.org), or the national safeguarding adults organisation, Ann Craft Trust (anncrafttrust.org).

Record-Keeping and Confidentiality

20. Any records relating to safeguarding concerns or allegations involving adults are stored securely and confidentially by the Club Safeguarding Officer and Deputy Club Safeguarding Officer, with access restricted to those who need it in order to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities, in line with RFU requirements and data protection legislation.

21. This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Club Safeguarding Officer and reported to the Board, and sooner if there is a change in RFU Regulation 21, the RFU Safeguarding Adults Policy, or relevant legislation.

Whitley Bay Rockcliff Rugby Football Club (also adopted by Rockcliff Foundation)

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Additional Information

- RFU Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures — available via englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/safeguarding-adults
- RFU Regulation 21 — Safeguarding — available via englandrugby.com/run/rules-governance/rfu-rules-and-regulations/regulation-21-safeguarding

- North Tyneside Safeguarding Adults Board — ntsab.org
- Ann Craft Trust (national safeguarding adults organisation) — anncrafttrust.org