

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy

This policy applies to the following sports sections at Cobham

Cobham Rugby

Cobham Lacrosse

Cobham Netball

Cobham Tennis

1. The CRSA acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of the children and vulnerable adults involved in the club from harm.
2. The CRSA adheres to the individual sports sections Safeguarding Policies and the procedures, practices and guidelines.
3. A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any activity.
4. The Key Principles of Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy are that:
 - The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult (as appropriate) is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations. All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language or sexual orientation have the right to protection from abuse or harm.
 - All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
 - Working in partnership with other organisations, statutory agencies, parents, carers, children and young people is essential for the welfare of children and young people.
 - Children and vulnerable adults have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted and managed in relation to their participation in rugby union, whether they are playing, volunteering or officiating in the community or professional areas of the sport.
5. The CRSA recognises that all children and vulnerable adults have the right to participate in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice and recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.

6. The CRSA will implement and comply with the relevant individual sports sections Codes of Conduct and Imagery Policies.
7. If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult has been put at risk you must in the first instance inform the Section Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the relevant Safeguarding contact. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform the Chairperson of the sports section.
8. The CRSA promotes and supports all members of the individual sports sections who have a regular supervisory contact with children or a management responsibility for those working with children or vulnerable adults to undertake an Enhanced DBS disclosure, renewable every 3 years.
9. The CRSA will ensure that all its members, whether coaches, parents, players or officials will comply with the individual sections Best Practice Guidances. In summary, the following are NOT acceptable and will be treated seriously by the CRSA and may result in disciplinary action being taken:
 - Working alone with a child, children, vulnerable adult, or adults.
 - Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or vulnerable adults. Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply. If a parent/member is found to be providing or purchasing alcohol for any child, including their own, this could result in their membership being terminated.
 - Smoking in the presence of children.
 - Humiliating children or vulnerable adults.
 - Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.
 - Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children or vulnerable adults.
 - Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or vulnerable adult developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust.'
 - Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.
10. The CRSA oversees management of the changing facilities and ensures that the coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same time, using the same facilities as children or vulnerable adults.

11. The playing grounds and facilities of the club are accessible to members of the public and other sports users. Coaches, volunteers, employees and parents should be aware of this in relation to children's changing and toilet facilities and should challenge anybody not known to them if found in these areas.
12. The CRSA will ensure that its coaches and team managers will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and roles within the individual sports section.
13. Any events held on Cobham RFC premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate a Safeguarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected. Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by any age groups must comply with the relevant sports sections Regulations and Guidance relating to tours. See individual sports section Website.

Signed

Date

April 2019