



North Ribblesdale R.U.F.C.

Grove Park, Greenfoot, Settle, North. Yorkshire, BD24 9QR
www.northribblesdale.co.uk

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

- The Club recognises the value of working closely in partnership with youth coaches, parents, professionals and volunteers to protect its youth players from harm and discrimination.
- The Club acknowledges that abuse does take place in sport and that raising awareness and understanding of the main forms of abuse and establishing communication and reporting procedures if abuse is suspected within the Club will further safeguard youth players, youth rugby coaches, youth rugby volunteers and all others working within the game of rugby.
- A Welfare Officer (formerly referred to at the Club as its Child Protection Officer) has been appointed to act as the first point of contact for concerns about the welfare of youth players within the Club.
- Each youth rugby squad at the Club will nominate an adult who will be responsible for liaising with the Welfare Officer in respect of child protection matters in general and those particularly relating to that squad.
- The Club accepts that all officers and committee members have a responsibility in respect of child protection and is prepared to respond to any indication of poor practice or abuse in line with RFU policy and to put in place structures and systems to ensure that this is followed in practice.
- The Club has adopted a Code of Conduct for Youth Rugby Coaches and Other Youth Rugby Volunteers and will implement and enforce its terms. The Club will introduce from time to time other codes or policies relating to its youth players. All codes and policies will be posted on the Club's website and will be subject to amendment.
- All youth rugby coaches and other youth rugby volunteers at the Club are required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure form and an RFU Application Form.
- A disciplinary panel, made up of 3 Club members in line with RFU criteria and with powers laid down by the RFU, will be convened as and when required to conduct a disciplinary hearing in connection with child protection matters.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All youth rugby coaches and other youth rugby volunteers will have a job description.
- The Club acknowledges that appropriate training will enable individuals within the Club to recognize their responsibilities with regard to their own good practice and the reporting of poor practice or concerns of possible abuse. All the Club's coaches working with youth players will be expected to complete an appropriate RFU coaching course. Other youth rugby volunteers will be encouraged to seek appropriate training to assist them in the conduct of their role at the Club.
- All youth rugby coaches and other youth rugby volunteers who have regular contact with youth players are encouraged to complete the RFU Guide to Best Practice and Child Protection distance learning course. A pack for this course is available (at a charge) from the RFU.
- The Club will encourage youth rugby coaches and youth rugby volunteers to stay up-to-date with rugby, coaching, and child protection issues.
- The Club will keep written records of attendance, parental consent, and accidents.
- The Club will provide coaches and parents with a written procedure for dealing with accusations or suspicions of child abuse.
- The Club will promote fair play and playing within the spirit of the Laws of the Game and the letter of the Continuum.