



01268 681 881

CIRUFC

CANVEY ISLAND RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB
Tewkes Creek, Dovervelt Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 8EJ



www.cirufc.co.uk

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Introduction

Canvey Island Rugby Union Football Club recognises that every child has the right to be protected from abuse, harm or discrimination. This policy will give guidance for best practice and detail how Canvey Island Rugby Union Football Club deals with child protection. This policy supplements the RFU policy and procedures for the welfare of young people in rugby union.

Canvey Island Rugby Union Football Club believes it is the responsibility of every adult to ensure the well being of children and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings as individuals, whatever their gender, age, religious belief, culture, race, sexual identity or disability.

Statement

It is the mission of Canvey Island Rugby Union Football Club to provide a safe environment, free from abuse, harassment and discrimination, for any child to participate in rugby.

Guidance

Child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, can arouse strong emotions in those facing such a situation. It is important to understand these feelings and not allow them to interfere with your judgement about any action to take. A coach, official, volunteer or member of the club may have regular contact with children and are valuable links in identifying cases where children may need protection. All volunteers within the club will be issued with a copy of this policy. Copies of the RFU policies are available from the Club Child Welfare Officer (CCWO).

Suspected abuse

ALL instances of suspected abuse, harassment or discrimination must be reported to the CCWO immediately. Such instances MUST NOT be investigated by the person reporting them. The CCWO will take the necessary action and report the occurrence(s) to the appropriate authority.

The person dealing with a suspected instance of abuse shall:

- stay calm - do not rush into inappropriate action. React calmly in order to not alarm the young person;
- reassure the child - that they are not to blame and confirm that you know how difficult it must be to confide;
- listen sympathetically - to what the child says and show that you take them seriously;
- keep questions to a minimum - the law is very strict and child abuse cases have been dismissed where the child has been led or words and ideas have been suggested. Only ask questions to clarify;
- ensure you clearly understand what the child has said - in order that the information can be passed on to the appropriate agencies;
- consult the CCWO - ensuring that you communicate all the information accurately;
- maintain confidentiality - complete an incident report form. All incidents will be treated with an "open mind" and be handled in a fair and equitable manner. Confidentiality must be maintained until a case is proven;
- ensure the safety of the young person - if urgent medical attention is required, then call an ambulance, inform the doctors of the concerns and ensure they are aware that this is a child protection issue.

Under no circumstance shall the person dealing with an instance of abuse:

- panic - or allow your feelings to be evident;
- make promises you cannot keep - explain that you will need to tell other people;
- make the child repeat the story unnecessarily;
- delay;
- speculate or make assumptions;
- approach the alleged abuser;
- take sole responsibility.





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Good Practice

The following details good practice adopted by Canvey Island Rugby Union Football Club.

- remember that the well being of children is paramount
- always be publicly open when working with young people
- rugby is a game which should be enjoyed
- encourage fair play and good sportsmanship
- be reasonable in your demands
- ensure all volunteers are appropriately qualified
- act upon signs of bullying, do not tolerate it
- always abide by the Clubs Code Of Practice

Poor Practice

The following details actions or instances that shall be avoided.

Never:

- abuse a child verbally, physically, mentally or sexually
- take a child to your home
- overwork children
- take a child to their home or other secluded place where you will be alone
- allow any form of inappropriate touching
- make sexually suggestive remarks to a young person, even in fun
- allow allegations by a young person to go unchallenged
- depart the rugby club until the safe dispersal of all young people is complete
- cause an individual to lose self-esteem by embarrassing, humiliating or undermining him / her
- agree to meet a young person on your own on a 'one to one' basis
- treat some young people more favourably than others

Volunteer Recruitment

Volunteers who may come into contact with young people must meet certain criteria to ensure the welfare of the young people they will be working with. The following criteria must be satisfied before a volunteer undertakes their role and responsibility:

- be a club member
- complete a volunteer recruitment form
- successfully complete a CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) disclosure
- attend a formal interview with at least 2 committee members
- receive a Club Introductory Pack
- sign the relevant PAS (Post Accountability Statement)

NSPCC Helpline

Telephone: 0800 800 5000

Asian Helpline: 0800 096 7719

Welsh Helpline: 0800 100 2524

Deaf Users Textphone: 0800 056 0686

Web: www.nspcc.org.uk

This is a 24-hour free and confidential telephone helpline that provides counselling, information and advice to anyone concerned about a child at risk of ill treatment or abuse.

Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)

3 Gilmour Close, Beaumont Leys, Leicester LE4 1EZ

Telephone: 0116 234 7278

Web: www.thecpsu.org.uk

RFU Ethics and Equity Manager

Steve Farr

Telephone: 0208 831 7479

Email: stevefarr@rfu.com

RFU Child Protection Lead Officer

Helen Ames

Telephone: 0208 831 7996

Email: helenames@rfu.com

The RFU Helpline

Telephone: 0208 831 6655

Email: childprotection@therfu.com

A copy of the RFU Child Protection Policy is available from here:

<http://www.rfu.com/PDFs/ChildProtection/CPPolicyText.pdf>

