



Kent Society of Rugby Football Union Referees (KSRFUR)



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy¹

1. Keeping Children and Adults Safe

- 1.1. Safeguarding is a matter taken very seriously by The Society and all its members. The Society will work within the RFU Safeguarding policy. [RFU Safeguarding Children Policy](#)
- 1.2. The Society understands that when officiating rugby where children are playing there must be a safe, secure and enjoyable environment, and adherence to the principles laid out in section 7 of the [RFU Age Grade Rugby CoP](#) and [RFU Regulation 21](#)
- 1.3. The Society also understands that the same duty of care should be applied to Society members who are under the age of 18 and will adhere to The Society's Policy for the Appointment and Coaching / Advising Of Young Match Officials (YMO) under the age Of 18 (U18YMO).
- 1.4. KSRFUR have a dedicated Safeguarding Officer and a Deputy Safeguarding Officer. The membership are made aware that any concerns or questions should be directed to these Officers. The safeguarding Officer contact details can be found on the contacts page on our website.
- 1.5. To ensure that the Society delivers a safe environment for both young players and young match officials to enjoy their rugby experience we will undertake the following activities and actions:
 - 1.5.1. The Society will only appoint DBS checked referees to U18 matches.
 - 1.5.2. Where a Society policy requires a DBS check, this will only be acceptable if it was completed within 3 years
 - 1.5.3. KSRFUR will ensure that its coaches, mentors and match advisors receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role. Specifically, attendance at a "Play it Safe" course
 - 1.5.4. Safeguarding will be a standing item on the agenda of all meetings of the general committee.
 - 1.5.5. The management and mentoring of all Under 18 Match Officials will be in accordance with The Society's Policy for the Appointment and Coaching / Advising Of Young Match Officials (YMO) under the age Of 18 (U18YMO).
 - 1.5.6. Under 18 Match Officials and their Parents will receive a copy of The Society's Policy for the Appointment and Coaching / Advising Of Young Match Officials (YMO) under the age Of 18 (U18YMO).
 - 1.5.7. Videoing Games/Referees for Training/Development
 - The Society will seek permission from BOTH clubs if they plan to video an U18 Game
 - The Society will seek Parental permission if they plan to video an U18 Referee
 - 1.5.8. The Society will review this policy annually and update as required

2. Contact numbers

- KSRFUR Safeguarding Officer – See our contacts page
- KSRFUR Deputy Safeguarding Officer – admin@kentrefs.co.uk
- NSPCC 24 hour Freephone: [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000)
- RFU Safeguarding Line (an unmanned 24 hour answerphone service): [0208 831 6655](tel:02088316655)
- RFRU Safeguarding Officer: [Link to RFRU website](#)

3. Resources to be consulted for up to date safeguarding advice and recommendations

- England Rugby – [Safeguarding Children](#)
- England Rugby – [Safeguarding Adults](#)
- England Rugby – [Reporting an issue](#)
- The Child Protection In Sport Unit (CSPU) - [Keeping Children Safe in Sport](#)
- NSPCC – [What to do if you suspect abuse or are concerned about the welfare of a child](#)

If any Society member has any concerns in respect to safeguarding, they are encouraged to seek advice and, in an emergency, or if a child is in immediate danger, call 999

4. KSRFUR Child protection policy

- 4.1. KSRFUR have adopted the RFU's Safeguarding Policy
- 4.2. KSRFUR recognises that all children 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. KSRFUR recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, in the Society.
- 4.3. A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17-yearold is involved in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure his or her safety and wellbeing are protected.
- 4.4. When refereeing young players match officials should:
 - Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating young players
 - Appreciate the needs of the players
 - Be a positive role model
 - Recognise that safety is paramount
 - Provide positive verbal feedback during games
 - Explain decisions – most young players are still learning
 - Not tolerate verbal abuse

5. KSRFUR Members Officials **MUST NOT**

- Change in the same area as young players
- Shower with young players
- Be alone with young players at any time
- Work alone with a child.
- Consume alcohol whilst responsible for children.
- Provide alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
- Swear at a child or in the presence of a child • Tolerate bad language from young players
- Smoke in the presence of children.

- Administer First Aid - Except in an emergency
- Check studs without the coach being present
- Allow a young player to continue playing if there are doubts about their fitness to do so
- Overtly criticise young players or use language which may humiliate or cause the player to lose confidence or self esteem
- Make sexually explicit remarks to young players even in fun
- Engage in any inappropriate contact with young players
- Give a lift to a player unless there are other young people or adults in the car and the parents are aware and informed
- Have an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or take a young player home.

6. KSRFUR Members MUST ALWAYS

6.1. Report to the Society Safeguarding Officer or Deputy Safeguarding Officer any behaviour, by adults which contravenes the RFU Safeguarding Policy, including;

- Verbal bullying by coaches/parents/spectators
- Physical abuse by coaches/parents/spectators
- Inappropriate or aggressive contact by an adult to a young person
- Verbal abuse directed at you by young people or adults

“The welfare of all young people is paramount”

While this Policy document deals with young persons, the Society is also committed to the protection of adults. The guiding principles are below.

All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in rugby union in an enjoyable and safe environment.

The rights, dignity and worth of all adults will always be protected.

Adopted in accordance with the constitution of Kent Society of Rugby Football Union Referees.

Adam Hollins
KSRFUR Safeguarding Officer

16th Sept 2023

A Hollins

Signed electronically

Revised 16th Sept 2023 and replaces all previous editions

