

Safeguarding Newsletter June 2018

Bullying

The Safeguarding Team often receives calls from Club Welfare Officers who are concerned about allegations or suggestions of child on child bullying within their club.

The RFL has an anti-bullying poster that [you can print out and put up at the club >>](#)

The Safeguarding Team has now developed a resource for Club Welfare Officers to deliver within their club. You can find the PowerPoint here http://www.rugby-league.com/the_rfl/child_player_welfare/safeguarding_children/club_welfare_officers

As we do every year the RFL will be supporting Anti-Bullying week which this year runs from 12 to 16 November, more details to follow. Here's a link to the website for you to start planning your actions <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2018-choose-respect>

The BullyingUK website also has lots of useful resources and information, links below.

Bullying in Sports Clubs <https://www.bullying.co.uk/general-advice/advice-about-bullying-in-sports-clubs/>

Cyber-bullying <https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/>

Advice for young people <https://www.bullying.co.uk/advice-for-young-people/>

The CPSU also has good resources around bullying <https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/topics/anti-bullying/>

POOR PRACTICE - DON'T FEEL ABLE TO CHALLENGE THE COACH?

Occasionally the Safeguarding Case Management Group (SCMG) has a case against a coach and during the investigation it becomes clear that people at the club had concerns about the coach's behaviour but were fearful of the reaction if the coach was challenged about his behaviour.

Behaviour Giving Concern

This could be:

- Poor practice
- Showing favouritism
- A win at all costs mentality
- Shouting at children
- Not allowing anyone else to be present at training
- Physical punishments – laps or press ups

Reasons Given for Not Challenging

These could be:

- Concerned the coach will leave
- Worried the coach will react badly & behave worse in future
- Fear that the coach will threaten the individual challenging his behaviour
- Knowledge of problems in the coach's private life

NONE OF THESE ARE ACCEPTABLE REASONS TO DO NOTHING!

What can you do?

- Speak to a supportive committee member and ask for their help
- Report the coach to the SCMG or League Welfare Officer
- Speak to the SCMG for advice, the RFL has a [Whistleblowing Policy](#) which means that you can give information in confidence

LISTENING CLUB

The RFL Safeguarding Team recently met with the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) who were really impressed with the Listening Club initiative.

If your club isn't a Listening Club yet please consider doing it as soon as possible. All the clubs that have carried out the initiative have found it a really positive experience which has reinforced the great work carried out by volunteers and how important the club is to the children who play there.

[Here's Heworth's presentation on how the Listening Club worked for them](#)

And here's the link to the toolkit to get you started http://www.rugby-league.com/the_rfl/child__player_welfare (scroll down to get to the toolkit)

A reminder about why this is important for you to do

- Young people should be consulted on their experiences of rugby league and their experiences within your club.
- Children will be more likely to stay in the club if they feel a part of it.
- If you listen to children and young people AND ACT on their concerns or ideas, then they will be more likely to come to you if they have worries or issues.
- Young people have great ideas and simple solutions – adults can often get tied up in sorting something out and young people can see an easy way around things.
- Retention of young players should improve because you are meeting their needs.
- Your committee can focus on the issues that young people say matter to them – not what we think are the issues for them.
- From the Listening Club you can identify candidates for player representation on the committee or set up a Youth Committee.
- Communicating effectively with junior players may enable them to identify issues and report them before they become a problem.

CONCUSSION

During the spring the RFL has been holding concussion workshops at League meetings. If your League hasn't had a workshop yet please contact safeguarding@rfl.uk.com to request one.

Yorkshire Junior League livestreamed their workshop on Facebook and have kindly shared the link so that it can be viewed by other Leagues, clubs, coaches and parents. To date it has had 2,600 views <https://www.facebook.com/YJYRL/videos/346261175782154/>

Please feel free to share the link and thanks from the Safeguarding team to Yorkshire Juniors for their support and initiative.

You can find more information about concussion on the RFL website http://www.rugby-league.com/the_rfl/concussion

The RFL has a concussion poster which you can display at the club if you would like one (or more) please email safeguarding@rfl.uk.com please remember to say which club it is and the address you would like the poster(s) sending to.

DISABLED CHILDREN

There are great resources available for understanding how to ensure disabled children can take part in rugby league.

<http://media.rugby-league.com/docs/Safeguarding%20Disabled%20Children%20in%20Rugby%20League.pdf>
<https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/topics/deaf-and-disabled/>
<http://www.activityalliance.org.uk/how-we-help/resources/page:1>

If you need any help or advice contact the Safeguarding Team safeguarding@rfl.uk.com

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Safeguarding & Protecting Children (SPC)

Here's the link to upcoming courses

<https://www.coachwisebooker.com/RFL/DesktopDefault.aspx?e=fjefcbdbhgnidcphllmnbeibplgfjmgdiidfnb>

For any coaches and volunteers who have already attended a face to face Safeguarding & Protecting Children workshop and need to renew their qualification, we now have an online refresher course. The course costs just £10 per candidate, can be paid online, and done at home on their own computers/devices. The online refresher takes approximately 40 minutes to complete. You can access the online refresher [HERE](#). The qualification lasts for 3 years and makes up part of the RFL coach licencing criteria.

Time to Listen (TTL)

If you want to book a TTL course please email safeguarding@rfl.uk.com asking to ask about details for upcoming courses.