**Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Football Club.**

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND PERSONS AT RISK POLICY**

1. Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Football Club (PGRFC) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and persons at risk involved in PGRFC from harm.
2. PGRFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union’s Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines. It will endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document and successor policy. http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/
3. A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17-year-old player is playing in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution be taken to ensure that his/her safety and wellbeing are protected. Specifically this will involve PGRFC ensuring compliance with RFU Regulation 15.6.
4. A person at risk is any adult aged 18 or over, who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness. He or she may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.
5. The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Children and Persons at Risk Policy are that:
* The welfare of the child or person at risk(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 identity 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, young people and persons at risk.
	+ Children and persons at risk have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by person(s) 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.

		1. PGRFC recognises that all children and persons at risk 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. PGRFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the Club.
		2. PGRFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate. PGRFC will ensure its spectators, parents, members and officials are all aware of and have accepted the Club Photographic Policy as set out in the club welcome pack and on the website.
		3. PGRFC will endeavour to comply with the Guidance for Websites as set out on the RFU website and appendiced to this document.
		4. The Club Safeguarding Officer is Sarah Burke (telephone number - 07877 833121 email - sarahburkesw@gmail.com) The Assistant Club Safeguarding Officer is Victoria Teasdale (telephone number - 07860 640584 email - v.l.teasdale@outlook.com) If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child or person at risk has been put at risk, you must in the first instance inform the Club Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the Lancashire CB Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Team. safeguarding@lancashirerugby.com

		If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer, you should inform the Chairman of Mini Junior and Colts Rugby - Hugh Duckworth at PGRFC (telephone number - 07841 625000 email - hughduckworth986@gmail.com) and either the Lancashire CB Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.
		5. All members of PGRFC who have a regular supervisory contact with children or persons at risk, or a management responsibility for those working with children or persons at risk must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21.
		6. PGRFC will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents, players or officials will comply with the Best Practice Guidance as issued by the RFU. In summary, the following are **NOT** acceptable and will be treated seriously by the Club and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Club, the Constituent Body or the RFU:
			- Working alone with a child, children or person(s) at risk .
			- Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or persons at risk.
			- Providing alcohol to children or persons at risk or allowing its supply.
			- Smoking in the presence of children or persons at risk.
			- Humiliating children or persons at risk.
			- Bullying of a child or person at risk.
			- Racist behaviour towards a child or person at risk.
			- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or person at risk.
			- Adult participation in contact activity or physical games with children or persons at risk.
			- Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or person at risk adult developed as a result of being in a ‘position of trust.’
			- Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.
			- Condone or advise use of prohibited substances (Steroids, Growth Hormone Drugs etc.)
			- Direct and isolated 1-2-1 contact with a child or person at risk by means of texting, emails or social media.
				1. PGRFC manages the Club changing facilities and arranges for players to be supervised by two adults (DBS Cleared and RFU CRB checked) of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. PGRFC ensures that all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same time or use the same facilities as children or persons at risk.
				2. PGRFC will ensure that its coaches and team managers will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role, as delivered by the RFU training team. The RFU “Managing Challenging Behaviour” Policy has been adopted and circulated amongst the club workforce - both voluntary and paid.
				3. Any events held on PGRFC 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 PGRFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours. Along with requesting permission to tour from Lancashire County Honorary Secretary/M&J Chairman and the RFU if applicable.
				4. Should ANY person have concerns relating to the Safeguarding and Protection of Children and Persons at Risk whilst involved at PGRFC, it is their duty to report the matter.

http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/

Signed H D Duckworth.

Date 01 January 2022

Policy Review Date 1st December 2024