



## **Lytchett Minster RFC (LMRFC) Rugby Football Club Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy**

Safeguarding vulnerable people is everyone's responsibility. This means that everyone in the rugby environment has a responsibility to respond to any concerns that they or others may have about a child or vulnerable adult or the behaviour of an adult towards such an individual.

In the context of this policy, HARM is an action or behaviour that has a detrimental effect on a child or vulnerable adult's physical or emotional health or wellbeing. HARM can be defined as NEGLECT, ABUSE or BULLYING and in the case of vulnerable adults also includes FINANCIAL ABUSE. The RFU's Safeguarding Policy contains further details regarding the above and is wholly adopted by LMRFC.

1. LMRFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in LMRFC and acknowledges its duty to protect them from harm.
2. The definition of a child is defined in the Children's Act 2004 and is a person under the age of 18 years.
3. The definition of a vulnerable adult is defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and is a person who is 18 years or older and has:
  - a. Dependency upon others, or a requirement for assistance from others, in the performance of basic physical functions.
  - b. Severe impairment in their ability to communicate with others.
  - c. An impairment in their ability to protect themselves from assault, abuse or neglect.
  - d. Has been detained in lawful custody or is being supervised as a result of a court order.
4. LMRFC confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.
5. A child is anyone under the age of 18 years engaged in any rugby union activity. However, where a 17 year old male player is playing in the adult game it is essential that every reasonable precaution is taken to ensure his

safety and wellbeing are protected.

6. The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy are that:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult (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 and young people.
- Children have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted and managed group of LMRFC officials in relation to their participation in rugby union, whether they are playing, volunteering or officiating in the community or professional areas of the sport.

7. LMRFC 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. LMRFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.

8. LMRFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate. LMRFC 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.

9. LMRFC will endeavour to comply with the Guidance for Websites as set out on the RFU website and appendices to this document.

10. **Club Safeguarding Officer**  
Richard Hull  
Mobile: 07745811823  
E-mail: [trimaran854@gmail.com](mailto:trimaran854@gmail.com)



**First Deputy Safeguarding Officer**

Helen Dailey

Mobile : 07738752865

E-mail : [helenbighovis@gmail.com](mailto:helenbighovis@gmail.com)



If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult has been put at risk you must in the first instance inform the Club Safeguarding Officer.

The Club Safeguarding Officer will inform the local Constituent Body (CB) Safeguarding Manager and RFU Safeguarding Executive.

If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer or First Deputy Safeguarding Officer you should inform the Second Deputy Club Safeguarding Officer and Club Chairman.

**Club Chairman:** Jason Bowie

Mobile: 07795063702

E-mail: [chairmanlmrfc@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanlmrfc@gmail.com)



**CB Dorset & Wilts Safeguarding Team**

CB Safeguarding Manager Julie Fisher (nee Boddington)

Email [safeguarding@dwrugby.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@dwrugby.co.uk)

CB Disclosure & Barring Service Compliance Manager David Wookey

Email [youthadmin@dwrugby.co.uk](mailto:youthadmin@dwrugby.co.uk)

Tel 01980 625018 or 07850 625018

RFU Safeguarding Executive.

<http://clubs.rfu.com/Clubs/portals/RUSafe/NATIONALSafeguardingTeam.aspx>

If you feel a child is in immediate risk of abuse you should immediately contact a statutory agency, Children's Services or Dorset Police:

Dorset Police: 01202 222222

Dorset Council Children's Services: 01305 228866

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm

Email: [childrensadvicanddutyservice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:childrensadvicanddutyservice@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**Monday to Friday 5pm to 9am and all weekends: 01202 228866**

Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council Children's Services:

01202 735046

Monday to Thursday: 8:30am to 5:15pm

Friday: 8:30am to 4:45pm

Email: [childrensfirstresponse@bcpouncil.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfirstresponse@bcpouncil.gov.uk)

**Monday to Friday 5pm to 9am and all weekends: 01202 738256**

Dorset Council Adults: 01305 858250

BCP Adults Emergency Duty Service: 0300 123 9895

If a vulnerable adult is at risk of abuse, ideally their consent prior to contacting the statutory agency should be obtained if possible and practical.

11. All members of LMRFC who have regular supervisory contact with children or a management responsibility for those working with children must undertake an RFU Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Check.
12. LMRFC will ensure that all its members and volunteers, 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 CB or the RFU:
  - Working alone with a child, children, vulnerable adult, or adults.
  - Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or vulnerable adults.
  - Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply.
  - Smoking in the presence of children.
  - Humiliating children or vulnerable adults.
  - Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.
  - Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children or vulnerable adults.
  - Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or vulnerable adult developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust.'
  - Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.
13. LMRFC manages the club changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by two adults (DBS checked) of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities.
14. LMRFC ensures that all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same time, using the same facilities as children or vulnerable adults.
15. Other than in an emergency situation (eg. Fire/Medical emergency) no adult should enter the changing facilities alone.
16. LMRFC will ensure that its coaches, team managers and first aiders will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role. The RFU "Managing Challenging Behaviour" Policy has been adopted and circulated amongst the club workforce both, voluntary and paid.

17. Any events held on LMRFC premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate a Safeguarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected.
18. Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by LMRFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours. For further detail please refer to [Rugby Tours \(englandrugby.com\)](http://englandrugby.com) and the current RFU "Touring with Children A Safeguarding Guide" which includes a tour planning checklist.

The following associated specific documents are available to view on the LMRFC website:

## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

## **Photography Policy**

## **Social Media Policy**

## **RFU Touring with Children**

*This must be adopted in accordance with the club constitution.*

Signed .....

Date .....