



Club & Volunteer Responsibilities in Age Grade Rugby¹

All clubs offering rugby to children & young people need to:



Adhere to the IRFU Safeguarding Policy



Appoint a Club Welfare Officer (CWO)



Make clear what the club ethos is



Ensure coaches have been safely vetted & recruited



Give coaches the opportunity to attend relevant training



Ensure that everyone has access & adheres to the Codes of Conduct



Ensure appropriate ratio of suitably qualified or experienced coaches to players



Reinforce that activities should be fun & inclusive, focus on playing & skills development



Guide coaches to take the time to listen to the views of players



Strive to create a physically & emotionally safe environment



Ensure players & coaches are properly registered on RugbyConnect



Signpost to/seek guidance from expert organisations if needed

¹ Updated July 2025

All coaches² working with children & young people need to:



Adhere to the IRFU
Safeguarding Policy



Sign the Declaration of
Intent



Complete the vetting
process before starting



Attend relevant training,
including safeguarding



Plan & prepare for each
training session & match



Ensure activities are fun
& inclusive



Have a good attitude &
respect for the ethos,
laws & traditions of rugby



Actively listen to players,
so that they can express
their thoughts & feelings



Encourage players to
solve problems & make
their own decisions



Turn mistakes into a
positive learning
experience for players



Be fair when dealing with
players, particularly with
selection & inclusion



Keep up to date with age
appropriate sports
information

Icons made by: Freepik; Wanicon; Eucalyp; Geotatah; Good Ware; Phatplus; Photo3ideastudio; Monkik; and Smash Icons from www.flaticon.com

² We use the term '**coach**' when someone is 'working' with a team, however you may have other names or roles such as 'helper', 'assistant', 'manager', etc., but nonetheless you are taking some responsibility for supporting the development of children and young people.