



Club & Volunteer Safeguarding Responsibilities¹

All clubs offering rugby to children and/or adults need to:



Adhere to the IRFU Safeguarding Policy



Appoint a Club Welfare Officer (CWO)



Make clear what the club ethos is



Follow safer recruitment practices for all staff & volunteers



Give staff & volunteers the opportunity to attend relevant training



Ensure that everyone has access & adheres to the Code 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



Promote a culture of safeguarding & inclusion across all levels of the game



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



Ensure players & coaches are properly registered on RugbyConnect



Signpost to/seek guidance from expert organisations if needed

¹ Updated August 2026

All coaches² working with children and/or adults need to:



Adhere to the IRFU
Safeguarding Statement
& guidance



Adhere to the Declaration
of Intent & Code of
Conduct



Complete the vetting
process before starting, if
appropriate³



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
& stage appropriate
sports information

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² Term applied to all roles within rugby taking responsibility for supporting the development of children or adults playing the game. Individuals may have other names or roles such as 'helper', 'assistant', 'manager' etc.

³ Everyone working in a **relevant role** with children and/or adults at risk must be IRFU Safeguarding Approved **prior** to setting foot on a pitch or carrying out any tasks with children and/or adults at risk