



# OAKMEADIANS RFC

The heart of Bournemouth



## Oakmeadians Rugby Football Club Safeguarding Policy.

Oakmeadians Rugby Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in Oakmeadians Rugby Football Club from harm.

We confirm that we adhere to the Rugby Football Union's Safeguarding Policy and their procedures, practices and guidelines and endorse and adopt the Policy statement contained in that document and any successor policy.

Oakmeadians RFC 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, and harm and poor practice. Oakmeadians RFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved in whatever capacity at the club.

All members of Oakmeadians RFC (Coaches Managers, and First Aiders) who work with children in Regulated Activity must undertake and RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU regulation 21

The Club Safeguarding Officer is Laura Hart (Tel: 07872 583582 – Email [safeguard@oakmeadians-rfc.com](mailto:safeguard@oakmeadians-rfc.com)). If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child has been put at risk you must, in the first instance, inform the Club Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the CB Safeguarding Manager and the RFU Safeguarding Team. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform the Assistant Safeguarding Officer (Paula Sheppard Tel: 07817 707612) and either the CB Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

Oakmeadians RFC manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by two DBS checked adults for the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. Oakmeadians RFC 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.

Oakmeadians RFC 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 voluntary and paid.

Any events held on Oakmeadians RFC premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate the Safeguarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected. Any tours, overseas or domestic, undertaken by Oakmeadians RFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours



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- A child is anyone under the age of 18 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. Oakmeadians RFC follows RFU regulation 15.
- A vulnerable adult, as defined in section 59 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, is anyone over the age of 18 with a dependency on others or a requirement for assistance from others in the performance of basic physical functions; severe impairment in the ability to communicate with others, or impairment in a person's ability to protect him or herself from assault abuse or neglect.

The Key Principles of the RFU Safeguarding Policy are that:

- The welfare of the child is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations.
- All participants regardless of age, gender, ability, 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
- Children have the right to expect support and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted person 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.

Oakmeadians RFC 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 CB or the RFU.

- Working alone with a child
- Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children
- Providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply
- Smoking in the presence of children
- Humiliating children
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child
- Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children
- Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child developed as a result of being in a position of trust.
- Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material