



OAKMEADIANS RFC

The heart of Bournemouth



Club Safeguarding Policy 2024/2025.

1. Oakmeadians Rugby Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in Oakmeadians RFC from harm.
2. Oakmeadians RFC 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 and any successor policy.

A child is anyone under the age of 18

3. 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.
4. 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 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.
 - Children have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an 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.
5. 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, harm, and poor practice. Oakmeadians RFC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.
6. Oakmeadians RFC will implement and comply with the RFU Code of Conduct and the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.
7. The Club Safeguarding Officer is Laura Hart. 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



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Safeguarding Team. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform the Chairman or Honorary Secretary and either the CB Safeguarding Manager or the RFU Safeguarding Team.

8. All members of Oakmeadians RFC who work with children in Regulated Activity must undertake an RFU Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in accordance with RFU Regulation 21.
9. 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.
10. 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 because of being in a 'position of trust.'
 - Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.
11. Oakmeadians RFC manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by two DBS checked adults of 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.
12. Oakmeadians RFC will ensure that its coaches [and team managers] will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role.
13. Any events held on Oakmeadians RFC 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 Oakmeadians RFC must comply with the relevant RFU Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.



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An adult is anyone aged 18 or over.

14. Adult safeguarding is protecting a person's rights to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
 - Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
 - Is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect, as a result of those care and support needs
- Adults at risk – those who fulfil the above criteria.

15. Oakmeadians RFC is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for everyone to enjoy rugby union and participate whether it be playing, volunteering or spectating. We accept our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all adults involved in the game, particularly those deemed at risk. All adults working, volunteering and participating in sport deserve their experience to be a positive one.

16. All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in rugby union in an enjoyable and safe environment.

17. Oakmeadians RFC will seek to ensure that rugby is inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment, we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring and review.

18. The rights, dignity and worth of all adults will always be respected. • Oakmeadians rfc recognise that ability and disability can change over time, such that some adults may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, in particular those adults with care and support needs.

19. Oakmeadians RFC takes responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all adults and will act appropriately and report concerns whether these concerns arise within rugby or in the wider community.



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20. All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with the RFU Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures.

21. The club recognises the role and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding adults.

Club Contacts:

- Laura Hart, Safeguarding Lead – m:07872 583582 – safeguard@oakmeadians-rfc.com
- Paula Sheppard Safeguarding Assistant – m:07817 707612 – membership@oakmeadians-rfc.com
- Chrissy Beatty, Wellbeing Ambassador – support@oakmeadians-rfc.com
- Jane Hart, Chairman – m: 07715 531143 – chairman@oakmeadians-rfc.com
- Nic Wallace-Walton, Honorary Secretary – m:07771 985656 honsecretary@oakmeadians-rfc.com

ENDS Aug 2024