



Howe of Fife RFC



Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy Statement

Policy Statement:

People come to Howe of Fife RFC to play rugby and have fun. All members will respect the rights of others, particularly children and vulnerable adults, to have a safe and enjoyable experience within our club.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every member to ensure that children and vulnerable adults can play the game of rugby in a safe, supportive and enjoyable environment. Members, coaches, managers, volunteers and parents shall take responsibility for the safety of vulnerable individuals within the club. Howe of Fife maintains clear standards on behaviour, a firm policy on protection of vulnerable groups, and will at all times follow SRU Guidance on this sensitive subject. The club will appoint a Child Protection Officer (CPO) responsible for ensuring compliance with SRU child and vulnerable adult safety guidance.

Coaching

All coaches/managers at Howe of Fife will be members of the club and will have completed PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) disclosure in accordance with SRU guidelines. It is club policy that all coaches attend SRU approved courses to the appropriate levels. In addition to improving the level of coaching for Mini and Youth rugby, courses include awareness of child protection issues.

Parents

Parents should be aware of the club's child protection policy as they have a vital role to play. In particular, parents leaving their children unaccompanied at the club should make this known to the coach and leave a contact number in case of emergency.

Players

Players shall be members of the club, and be aware of their membership responsibility regarding inclusion, safety and behaviour standards.

Presumed consent

Parents will be presumed to have given their consent in respect of the following specific activities:

- Injuries. If a child is injured on the pitch, it is likely that the first person to attend to the child will be a coach. Parents are presumed to have given consent for the coach to take immediate appropriate action to deal with the injury.
- Showers. Any Mini rugby player taking a shower after training or matches must be accompanied by their parent or guardian, or by another adult authorised by the parent or guardian to accompany the player. Coaches and/or managers may supervise showers and changing rooms as part of their normal function.

Photographs

We work on the basis that all parents and guardians will be presumed to have given consent for photos of their child(ren) taken whilst taking part in Howe of Fife FC Mini/Junior/Youth activities to appear on the club website and club or year group Facebook pages. Permission will be sought for any other distribution. Parents should inform the club if they do not wish photos of their child to be so used.

Web & Communication Guidance

Websites can be a positive way to communicate with children. However, there are risks associated with internet usage and all should be aware of current SRU Guidelines.

Coaches & club officials should adhere to the following when dealing with players under 18 years old relating to club activities:

- When communicating by phone, speak to the parent of the child.
- Avoid communicating with children 1:1 online – copy a parent on all email, messenger or text messages.
- Do not communicate with children through social networking, and do not 'friend' a child in the club
- If using closed group Facebook pages for communicating match or training information - parents should be the primary members. If players are members their parent must be tagged and/or copied on any direct message. Group setting should be 'Private',
- Club Trustees and CPO must be given access (be added) to any Howe Facebook group accessed by children.
- Unofficial team Snapchat or Instagram (or similar) groups should be discouraged, coaches should not be members.

Incidents

Abuse of any sort will not be tolerated. Abuse may be (but not limited to) physical, sexual, verbal, by discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, race, gender and even on ability. Any matter concerning Child or Vulnerable Adult Protection can be discussed in confidence with the CPO, a Trustee, Head Coach, or Welfare Officer as appropriate. The club will follow SRU Guidance in handling any incident. More information is available at <https://www.scottishrugby.org/safeguarding/>

Your CPO is Stuart Williamson  Contact Details available on the clubhouse noticeboard