



Burnley R.U.F.C.



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

We believe that taking part in our sport should be a positive and enjoyable part of our children's lives.

We want to make sure that children are protected and kept safe from physical, sexual and emotional harm while they are with the club's coaches, helpers and other volunteers.

To this end we have these aims:

- as a club, we recognise the value of working closely in partnership with coaches, parents, professional and volunteers to protect it's youth players from harm and discrimination.
- the club acknowledges that abuse does take place in sport and that raising awareness and understanding of the main forms of abuse and establishing communication and reporting procedures if abuse is suspected within the club will further safeguard youth players, coaches, volunteers and all others working within the game of rugby.
- the club accepts that all officers and committee members have a responsibility in respect of child protection and is prepared to respond to any indication of poor practice or abuse in line with the RFU policy and to put in place structures and systems to ensure that this is followed in practice.
- we will encourage coaches of either gender.
- all coaches will be qualified to preliminary level before they are allowed to be the head coach of an age group.
- the club will encourage and help coaches to stay up to date with rugby coaching and child protection issues.
- all coaches will be given a copy of the 'Club's Code of Conduct' and be expected to keep to it all times.
- we will comply with health and safety policy covering fire procedures, telephone access, first aid and emergency procedures.
- we will provide coaches and parents with a copy of the R.F.U. guidance on child protection issues.
- we will identify a person whose role it is to identify and act on any concerns about physical, sexual or emotional abuse within the club (*formerly referred to at the club as it's Child Protection Officer or Safeguarding Officer*).

- all coaches and volunteers within the youth rugby section at the club will be required to complete a CRB disclosure form.
- a disciplinary panel, made up of 3 club members in line with RFU criteria and with powers laid down by the RFU, will be convened as and when required to conduct a disciplinary hearing in connection with child protection matters.
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- we will keep written records of attendance, parental consent and accidents.
- all youth rugby coaches and other youth rugby volunteers who have regular contact with youth players are encouraged to complete the RFU Guide to Best Practice and Child Protection course.
- as a club we will promote 'fair play' and always play within the spirit of the laws of the game and the letter of the continuum.