Safer, better, stronger!

Colette Eden
Safeguarding Manager
Rugby Football League
The DNA of a Governing Body

The Rugby Football League

Our Values are

– Fair
– Care
– Share
– Dare
Ethos

The welfare of children within Rugby League is paramount and the RFL are committed to ensuring the correct policies are adhered to within the game.

The RFL define the policy to which all clubs must adhere, to ensure that young people enjoy and achieve
Overview of our policy and procedures

RFL Safeguarding Policy covers such areas as:

• Transporting children
• Safeguarding Disabled Children
• Dressing Room environment
• Recording images of children and young people
• Whistleblowing
• Recognising and Responding to Abuse
<table>
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<tr>
<th>What we provide</th>
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<td>Communicated through directed downloadable publications</td>
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- A range of resources that assist children, parents, coaches and clubs
- A range of courses/education to protect children taking part in rugby league and to protect coaches by educating them to protect themselves and their teams
- Courses that enable coaches to identify inappropriate behaviour and concerns
Role of the Safeguarding Manager

• Named person and first point of contact for concerns
• A link between all areas of the game – overview of what is happening in our sport
• Serious Case Team Lead
• CWO, LWO and RWO Manager
• Safeguarding Education Lead
• Inter Agency Representative for the RFL
What do we have

- A Safeguarding Case Management Group (SCMG)
- Weekly SCMG meetings
- Ability to respond (TSO) without formal meeting
- Experience and best practice that we share with other sports
- Reviews and systems to monitor and evaluate our work
Education

• Safeguarding and Protecting Children (SPC) for club coaches and volunteers
• Time to Listen (TTL) for Club Welfare Officers (CWOs)
• Targeted courses (Match Officials, Professional Players, Coaches, etc.)
• Training for League Welfare Officers (LWOs)
• Legislation Updates
• Club Education
• Clubs may wish to deliver educational sessions themselves for coaches, volunteers and parents. The RFL supports the club by providing resources.
Increase in cases

We are receiving more referrals – WHY?

• Education – coaches and parents know **what** to report. They know **how** to report. They **expect** us as a National Governing Body to deal with concerns.

• The more we educate and publicise what we do, the more referrals we will have = young people who stay, enjoy and achieve
Duties of an NGB

• We have a legal duty to care for our young players
• We have a moral duty too
• We want more children to take part in our sport, to stay playing and feel safe = enjoyment
• We want our coaches (volunteers) to continue coaching, to stay coaching and feel safe in their role
Current environment

Issues

• Online protection
• Cyber bullying
• Social Media
• Financial cutbacks and Austerity Measures
How we respond to our environment

• Annual conference
• Social Media Training
• Monthly Newsletter
• Regional Briefings
• Youth Forums
• RESPECT Campaign
• Touchline Manager Course
Why implement Child Protection?

• Because it is the right thing to do
• It increases participation – happy participants
• Increases volunteer uptake
• Reputation of the sport
• Investment in the future of your sport
The way forward

• Identify a designated officer
• Work with other sports to share good practice and ideas
• Devise a Child Protection Policy that suits your legal framework
• Publicise your plans and policy – be transparent – it’s a recruitment tool
• Commitment to policy
• If you would like any further information or clarification on any of the points made, please contact Colette Colette.eden@rfl.uk.com