



CHILD PROTECTION - SHORT GUIDE FOR VOLUNTEERS

ABERDEEN GRAMMAR RUGBY

2017 - 18

Introduction

Rugby promotes a wide range of core values - teamwork, discipline, confidence and above all fun.

Key to ensuring the above is a Club's commitment to, and good practice in child protection.

Aberdeen Grammar Rugby works hard to ensure adherence to SRU child protection policy and practice. A Child Protection Handbook is available on the Club website and contains comprehensive information about a wide range of information and guidance.

This short guide is based on the Handbook and provides volunteers, in particular coaches, with advice on what to do if concerns arise about a child or young person. It should be read in conjunction with, and not as an alternative to the Child Protection Handbook.

Concerns

Rugby is a contact sport and as such, children face risk. Good practice in coaching reduces risk and ensures players are safeguarded.

Other types of risk may be observed, giving rise to concerns about:

- The general welfare of a child arising from situations such as separation, bereavement or divorce
- A child is being subjected to abuse
- The conduct of a volunteer

General Welfare Concerns

Where wellbeing concerns arise that are not considered to indicate abuse, a common sense approach should be taken and the matter discussed with a parent or carer. Events such as separation, divorce or bereavement can impact on the wellbeing of a child.

Where concerns are considered to be more significant but fall short of abuse, guidance should be obtained from the Club Child Protection Officer. Contact details can be found below.

Concerns about suspected abuse of a child

If a child or young person makes a disclosure about abuse, they must be taken seriously and the following action taken:

- Stay calm and listen to what they say. Provide reassurance and record what is said even if it is a rough note
- Do not probe or ask questions other than to seek clarity about something
- Do not approach an individual against whom an allegation has been made

If a child or other individual shares concerns with you about another child or young person, follow the basic guidance listed above and inform the Club Child Protection Officer as soon as possible.

If you are concerned a child may be at risk from the conduct of a parent or carer, follow the basic guidance listed above and inform the Club Child Protection Officer as soon as possible.

Concerns about the conduct of a Volunteer

In all cases where there are concerns about the conduct of a volunteer, the safety and welfare of children and young people is of paramount importance.

The Club Child Protection Officer must be advised as soon as possible.

If you consider a child or young person is at risk of significant harm, or in immediate danger, contact Police Scotland or Social Work. Contact numbers are listed below.

Recording

If possible, record information regarding a concern or allegation even if it is only a rough note. This can help you recall what happened.

If you require any advice, information or guidance on child protection matters, please contact the Club Child Protection Officer who will be happy to assist. Contact details are below.

Additional Guidance

The SRU website contains a range of useful information and guidance on child protection and PVG compliance - www.scottishrugby.org and click on Child Protection.

Contacts

Audrey Nicoll, Child Protection Officer, Mobile 07734 145 299

Police Scotland non-emergency no 101 or dial 999 in an emergency

Aberdeen City Social Work Joint Child Protection Unit, 01224 306877

Aberdeen City Out of Hours Social Work Service – 01224 693936
(Mon – Fri 1600 to midnight, weekends 0830 to midnight)