



HEALTH, SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

The rugby club has a duty to ideally eliminate or at the very least; minimize any actual or perceived risks to all its members. This club is strongly committed to encouraging our members to train hard and compete. But the health, wellbeing and safety of each individual; adults and children is always our paramount concern.

To support our Health, Safety & Risk Management Policy we are committed to the following duties:

- Undertake regular, recorded risk assessment of the club premises and all activities undertaken by the club.
- Create a safe environment by putting and maintaining health & safety measures in place as identified by the thorough assessment.
- Ensure all club members are given the appropriate level of training and competition by regularly assessing individuals' ability dependant on age, maturity and development.
- Ensure that all club members are aware of understand and follow the club's health & safety policy.
- Ensure that normal operating procedures and emergency operating procedures are in place and known to all club members.
- Provide adequate first aid facilities, emergency telephone access and qualified first aider at all times.
- Report and record any/all injuries or accidents sustained during any club activity or whilst on the club premises.
- Ensure the policy is reviewed and updated regularly and monitored for effectiveness.

ALL CLUB MEMBERS AND COACHES HAVE A DUTY TO:

- Take reasonable care for your own health & safety and that of others who may be affected by what you do or not do.
- Cooperate with the club on health & safety issues.
- Correctly use all equipment provided by the club.

- Not interfere with or misuse anything provided for your health, safety and welfare.

This includes:

Playing and Training Areas

Ensure that all areas used for playing/training etc are safe and free from dangers and hazards, i.e. pot holes, sharp objects (stones glass), animal waste, uneven surfaces, puddles of or standing water etc.

Medical Facilities

First aid facilities and first aid boxes/packs as recommended by the RFU will be provided to all age group Head Coaches. Free access to these facilities and the playing area will be available at all times.

Ensure qualified first aid/medical personnel will be available during training/playing of games.

Ensure that access for Ambulances is available at all times.

Ensure that access to a telephone (land line and/or mobile) is available at all times.

Ensure all injuries, accidents, incidents must be recorded on the Accident Report Form and copies put into the club's Accident Folder.

Playing Equipment

Ensure that all training/playing equipment is fit for purpose and does not constitute a danger to anyone using it,

For example; scrum machines are maintained, tackle bags/contact pads & suits, post protectors are all in good condition and must be suited to a player's size and ability. Marker flag poles should flex on impact with no sharp edges, goal posts should be padded.

All equipment must be checked prior to training sessions and matches.

Playing Development

Ensure that the teaching/coaching or the playing development of players as well as the refereeing of the game of Rugby Football is carried out under all RFU rules, regulations and directives.

Use careful consideration as to the age and ability of players when introducing or developing any contact skill or situation.

All coaches **MUST NOT ASK** or **ALLOW** any adult or youth to take part in or help in training, playing or fun sessions of any kind, organized by the club, who does not have the relevant qualification, training or the club's authorization to do so.

Clubhouse and Storage Areas

When any organized activities (quiz, dinner, disco, etc) have been arranged on club premises; a risk assessment of the area and furniture etc that is to be used. Plus the floor area, lighting, heating, security and emergency exits should be undertaken.

Ensure any dangerous or hazardous areas are identified and cordoned off and clearly signed and the area quickly rectified.

Ensure all emergency exits clearly identified and kept free, storage areas securely secured, fire extinguishers clearly visible and signed.

Ground Equipment

All ground equipment (tractors, mowers etc) and ground supplies (seed, fertilizers etc) will be stored in a dedicated and secured area. Signs displaying 'HAZARD KEEP OFF' will also be displayed. .

General Conclusion

It is the responsibility of any coach, volunteer or club member, who becomes aware of any possible activity or areas of risk or danger inside buildings or outside within the curtilage of the club's land, to resolve the risk if possible, suspend the activity, training or match if it is not and in all cases bring the matter to the attention of the appropriate authority for urgent action.