



# RFU SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

## AUGUST 2020

### RFU Regulation 21 - Safeguarding Changes

Every year all RFU Regulations are reviewed and updated where necessary. All changes are approved by committee and RFU Council. In this edition of our Safeguarding Bulletin, we thought you might benefit from us highlighting the major changes to RFU Regulation 21. *These come into effect on August 1st*. Your CB Safeguarding Managers have already been notified of the changes. Any queries then please do make contact [safeguarding@rfu.com](mailto:safeguarding@rfu.com)

**21.1.6 GMS Club Audit** – The deadline has been extended for season 20/21 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 taking into consideration COVID 19.

**21.2.2 DBS Disclosures** – Any person aged 16 or over who is involved in any of the activities described as Regulated Activity but does not do so frequently enough to meet the definition of Regulated Activity is required to apply for an enhanced DBS disclosure without a Barred List check and comply with this Regulation 21.2.2. *See following information for more detail.*

**21.2.3 Online Safeguarding Awareness Training** – Prior to any DBS application, a person must complete the RFU's online safeguarding awareness training. *See following information for more detail.*

**21.2.7 Notification to RFU Safeguarding Team of any cautions / convictions** – This has now been extended to a club / CB / Referee Society or National Represented Body to inform us if they become aware.

**21.2.9 / 21.2.10 Third party organisations** - Clarification about third party organisations and safeguarding requirements.

**21.3.5 – Suspension (Bar) of Age Grade rugby at a club** - Where there are safeguarding concerns that are not addressed, it may be appropriate for the RFU Safeguarding Team to have the ability to temporarily restrict a club's ability to provide age grade rugby sessions.

#### Updated Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures

The Care Act 2014 put safeguarding of adults onto a statutory footing. Our policy and procedures have been updated to reflect this. More will follow in a future edition of the Safeguarding Bulletin.

[Safeguarding Adults Policy](#)

#### USEFUL LINKS & CONTACTS

England Rugby Safeguarding

For DBS enquiries:  
[dbseapp@rfu.com](mailto:dbseapp@rfu.com)

For general safeguarding help:  
[Safeguarding@rfu.com](mailto:Safeguarding@rfu.com)

For GMS assistance:  
[GMSSupport@RFU.com](mailto:GMSSupport@RFU.com)

RFU 24 hour child protection message service –

Tel: 0208 831 6655

 [@RFUSafeguarding](#)

#### GMS CLUB AUDITS

The audit consists of 20 questions and can be completed by the CSO or another officer with access to the club's organisational profile. It is located in the questionnaire tab.

We would like to get to a position where all clubs are able to answer yes to each question, but understand that in some areas this may be work in progress.

Don't forget to tick the safeguarding declaration at the end and press submit!

# Further information

## 21.2.2 DBS Disclosures

The RFU are legally obliged to ensure, by way of DBS check, that a person working or volunteering with children in regulated activity is not barred from doing so.

‘Regulated Activity’ means the statutory definition of the term as set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (as amended) that for the RFU’s purposes shall be construed as meaning: (i) any coaching and training of children; and/or (b) any teaching, instruction, care or supervision of children, carried out by the same person frequently (once a week or more often), or on four or more days in a 30 day period, or overnight.

The DBS have issued updated guidance which sets out that those individuals, such as referees, parent helpers who are engaged in teaching, training, instruction, supervision etc., but not frequently enough to be deemed Regulated Activity are eligible for an enhanced DBS check without a check of the barred list.

If a club requires the assistance of a non-DBS checked individual for a short time to undertake coaching/training/teaching/instruction/care or supervision of children, they must be actively supervised by a person with an enhanced DBS check. A DBS application should be made within 4 weeks (Reg 21.2.2)

Please see [DBS Checks in Sport - Working with Children](#) page 18, Annex A.

## 21.2.3 - Online Safeguarding Awareness Training – goes live 4<sup>th</sup> August

### New England Rugby Introduction to Safeguarding eLearning Course

We are really pleased to announce this new **free** eLearning course. To ensure that all those in a position of trust have an understanding of safeguarding before they start in their role, from August it will be compulsory for anyone who requires DBS clearance to first complete the Introduction to Safeguarding eLearning course.

The course is **FREE**, open to all and will be recorded on GMS.

It will take about 30 minutes and must be completed by those making new DBS applications, those renewing their certificates and anyone wishing to participate in the England Rugby Coaching or Refereeing Award courses.

We strongly recommend that all coaches, referees and volunteers working with children and young people complete this course before rugby activity resumes this season.

**This course does not replace Play it Safe**, but ensures that everyone, without exception, has a grasp of the basics in relation to safeguarding, including being able to recognise the signs of abuse and knowing how to report concerns. Play it Safe will build on that knowledge.

To book onto the course you will need your personal GMS login details and it will appear on your GMS profile 14 - 21 days after completion.

Access the Introduction to Safeguarding eLearning course through the course finder.