



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY  
RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

---

*Please reply to:*

**June 2023**

**AGM Safeguarding Report 2023 (Adult & Youth)**

Dear Bucks Clubs,

I am very pleased to inform you that Safeguarding in Bucks is yet again in a good place & going well. Following the RFU Club Safeguarding Audit it is pleasing that Bucks RFU as a CB are in a very good place. This is due to our Club Safeguarding Officers (CSO) doing a sterling job by ensuring our club children are being kept safe. I wish to pass on my thanks to all the CSO's and we have worked hard to educate club what the CSO role & supported them in their role, well done all.

We have had an increase in the amount of unacceptable behaviour from coaches, parents, and spectators. RFU have investigated the trend across the game and have increased the information & training available to clubs. Unfortunately, we have had to formally warn a couple of clubs this season re unacceptable behaviour. One coach at a club received a substantial sanction for verbal and physical abuse of a young match official.

*Please report anything that goes against the core values of the sport via the RFU "Speak Up Channels"*

<https://www.englandrugby.com/about-rfu/rfu-policies/speak-up-policy>

Most clubs have ensured that those working with children have complied with Reg 21, by holding "Play it Safe" CPD Courses. ALL our club safeguarding officers have attended the "In Touch" course. If your club would like a "Play it Safe" course let me know asap so we can book and confirm dates.

This season I have delivered 16 "Play it Safe" courses to over 300+ candidates in Bucks, really pleasing that so many volunteers have attended, increasing their knowledge & understanding the importance of what is required when working with children, U18's.

If you have any incidents / questions / concerns, please contact me or one of the Bucks Safeguarding Team asap.

The Rugby Football Union Safeguarding Children Policy and how to report an incident can be found online at <http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/>

If a child or adult is in immediate danger or harm, please call the police.

Many thanks

*Bob Hardman*

Safeguarding Manager Bucks RFU  
Buckinghamshire RFU Ltd,  
07771 706787  
[bob\\_hardman@icloud.com](mailto:bob_hardman@icloud.com)  
[www.bucksrfu.co.uk](http://www.bucksrfu.co.uk)

**TEAMWORK - RESPECT - ENJOYMENT - DISCIPLINE - SPORTSMANSHIP**

*Safeguarding children is of paramount importance and involves promoting children's welfare in every way. It means protecting them from abuse and neglect but also ensuring their appropriate development and maximising their opportunities. Safeguarding is about creating child-centred rugby and all that we do to prevent problems arising.*

*We rely on our many volunteers who give up their time to organise mini and youth rugby and aim to provide the highest standards of care for children in a safe and enjoyable environment. If you are a player, coach, parent, volunteer or teacher, this safeguarding policy exists to help you to protect our children from harm and to provide a positive experience for them.*