



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY
RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Please reply to:

June 2025

AGM Safeguarding Report 2024/25 (Adult & Youth)

Dear Bucks Clubs,

I am very pleased to inform you that Safeguarding in Bucks is 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 who have worked hard to educate their members, club committees what the CSO role is and ensuring children at their clubs are kept safe. This can be a challenge when people don't understand their behaviour is unacceptable.

Sadly, yet again we have had unacceptable breaches of behaviour from players, coaches, parents, and spectators. This resulted in discipline sanctions being issued to some clubs.

Bucks 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.

This season I have delivered "Play it Safe" courses in Bucks on behalf of the RFU, it is really pleasing that so many volunteers attend, increasing their knowledge and understanding of the importance of their requirements when working with children, U18's.

After 15+ seasons carrying out my role as Bucks County Safeguarding Manager (CBSGM), the time has come for me to step down from the role. It's been a fantastic experience, and I've truly appreciated working with our club safeguarding officers to ensure the safety and well-being of our players, they do a sterling job, please keep supporting them. The great news is that I'm handing over to an excellent successor—Jen Lyons from High Wycombe Rugby Club. I'll be assisting Jen during the transition and available by phone or email if needed.

Jen Lyons details are: BucksRFUSafeguarding@gmail.com - 07793 055567

If you have any incidents / questions / concerns, please contact Jen Lyons or RFU Safeguarding Team. If a child or adult is in immediate danger or harm, please call the police.

Many thanks

Bob Hardman

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TEAMWORK - RESPECT - ENJOYMENT - DISCIPLINE - SPORTSMANSHIP

Safeguarding children is of paramount importance and involves promoting children's welfare in every way. Everyone shares the responsibility for safeguarding and creating safe environments in rugby union whether as a parent, coach, spectator, or club official. All should operate within an accepted ethical framework and demonstrate exemplary behaviour to both safeguard children and protect all personnel from allegations of abuse or poor practice.

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, safeguarding policies exist to help you to protect all children (U18's) from harm and to provide a positive experience for them.