



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY  
RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

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*Please reply to:*

**June 2022**

**AGM Safeguarding Report 2022 (Adult & Youth)**

Dear Bucks Clubs,

I am very pleased to inform you that Safeguarding in Bucks is in a good place & going well. Bucks RFU as a CB are in a very good place, in comparison with other CB's. This is due to our Club Safeguarding Officers (CSO) doing a sterling job by ensuring our club children are being kept safe. Sometimes this can be difficult when club execs have not 100% understood the CSO role & supported them in their role.

We have dealt with almost twice as many incidents / concerns this season. A large amount has involved unacceptable behaviour from coaches, parents, and spectators. The RFU are looking into this with further information and training and considering additional sanctions on clubs to prevent future issues. Three (3) clubs in Bucks have been issued with 5.12 (Discipline) sanctions/formal warnings this season.

I have raised my concerns with the RFU re lack of information on the RFU Core Values (TREDS) & abuse toward match officials (both club and society refs) There is going to be a new drive from RFU through Bucks County to promote our core values. This will include posters, pitch side banners, website, and social media links etc. *The core values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline, and sportsmanship are important both for children in rugby and all the adults they meet, who we hope will serve as role models providing a positive experience.*

*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 before or after the start of September's new season let me know asap so we can book and confirm dates.

This season I have delivered 22 "Play it Safe" courses to over 400+ 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.

I will be increasing the Safeguarding Team, so we have a female officer to deal with issues/concerns &/or complaints in the girl's game.

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 dial 999.

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. 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.*