



RFU SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

Thank you for your efforts!

We all know that 2020 has been a very challenging and certainly interesting year. We hope that you and your families are well and send our very best wishes to you all.

We wanted to say a huge thank you for all your efforts to keep children safe within our game. Everything we do as a community is in place to better the sport and ensure children have a positive and safe experience. None one of this could be possible without your ongoing and sterling efforts. Thank you!

Safeguarding Team Changes

We would like to welcome and introduce a new team member to the RFU Safeguarding Department. As you may be aware Clare Scott left the RFU earlier this year.

Following a thorough recruitment process **Richard Drake** was appointed to the role of Safeguarding Case Officer. He joins our team from a previous role of Designated Safeguarding Officer at Hertfordshire FA. Richard can be contacted via email at richarddrake@rfu.com. The Safeguarding Team section of the England Rugby website will shortly be updated, you can find the relevant contact information for the full team at Twickenham on this [link](#).

Rugby Activity

Please note that any on-going or future rugby activity must be in line with RFU Regulations (15 and 21 specifically), RFU Safeguarding Policy, Covid-19 restrictions and the RFU's Rugby Road Map.

Further information on the RFU's Rugby Road Map can be accessed on this [link](#), where regular updates are in place.

All queries regarding the Rugby Road Map and COVID should be sent to clubsupport@rfu.com

GMS Safeguarding Audit

The deadline for the completion of the Safeguarding Audit was extended for season 20/21 to 30th

USEFUL LINKS & CONTACTS

England Rugby Safeguarding

For DBS enquiries:
dbseapp@rfu.com

For general safeguarding help:
Safeguarding@rfu.com

GMS assistance is accessed via the
GMS Help Portal
<https://help.rfu.com/support/home> -
where you can submit a request.

RFU 24-hour child protection
message service –

Tel: 0208 831 6655

 @RFUSafeguarding

**TEAMWORK
RESPECT
ENJOYMENT
DISCIPLINE
SPORTSMANSHIP**

November 2020. We understand that this is a challenging time for a lot of people but would hope that in the next few weeks, with lockdowns in place, that time can be found to complete this audit.

The CSO, or another officer with access to the club's organisational profile, should complete questions by that date in the questionnaire tab. The ideal is to have all clubs able to answer yes to each question, but understand that there may be work in progress. Don't forget to tick the safeguarding declaration at the end and press submit.

Should you have any concerns or queries relating to your Club's audit submission, please contact us at safeguarding@rfu.com so we can provide the relevant advice/support.

DBS Processing

We have had a number of queries relating to DBS processing in the current lockdown and with social distancing restrictions. Whilst earlier in the year the decision was made to suspend the DBS process, the RFU have decided at the current time that DBS applications can be submitted as normal.

We would remind you all of the need to carry out ID checks in accordance with the DBS ID guidance and as such face to face verification and hard copy documents must be seen prior to the applications submission. This should be carried out in line with the government advice/restrictions relating to social distancing.

Further DBS guidance can be found on the England Rugby website on this [link](#).

For any further queries/guidance please contact us via our dedicated email account – dbseapp@rfu.com

Mental Health Advice

With the current Covid-19 pandemic there has been a lot more focus on mental health, coping with changes to work/life balance and social restrictions. The RFU have some useful guidance in managing concerns and can signpost individuals to specialist agencies.

Please see this [link](#) for further information. Additionally -

- Samaritans: www.samaritans.org 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 (free from any phone).
- Shout: www.giveusashout.org For immediate support text SHOUT to 85258 to chat by text to a trained and supervised volunteer. Free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- The Mix: www.themix.org.uk provide essential support for under 25's including telephone counselling services, 121 chat and crisis messaging services.

- [RFU Safeguarding Adults Policy](#)
- [Ann Craft Trust](#)
- [Safeguarding Adults Week](#) – 16th to 22nd November 2020

UK Coaching have recently launched an on-line Safeguarding Adults Course which is available through their [website](#).



Thank you once again for all your efforts!