



# WIGAN ST. PATRICKS ARLFC

# SAFEGUARDING POLICY



# Wigan St. Patricks ARLFC

## Safeguarding Policy

1. Every child, young person or vulnerable adult who plays or participates in rugby league should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child, young person and vulnerable adult who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all of its members. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in our Club.
2. A child or young person for the purposes of this Policy is anyone under the age of 18 who is engaged in any Wigan St Patricks ARLFC activity. A vulnerable adult is anyone engaged in any Wigan St Patricks ARLFC activity who may be unable to take care of themselves or is unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.
3. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC subscribes to the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (which can be seen [here](#)) and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document (see Appendix 1 below).
4. The key principles of the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Policy are that:
  - The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration

- All children, young people and vulnerable adults have a right to be protected from abuse, regardless of their age, gender, special needs, ability, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious or other beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, colour, class, social background or political persuasion
  - All suspicions and allegations of abuse or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
5. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC recognises and readily accepts its role in safeguarding the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults entrusted to its care by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. The Club further recognises and accepts that the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Policy and related regulations applies to everyone involved in rugby league, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes everyone who is a volunteer, match official, helper, coach, club official or medical staff.
6. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC endorses and adopts the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Policy and guidance for the responsible recruitment of volunteers and staff, as set out in Section 3 and Appendix 6 of the Policy, and will:
- Develop a job description or role profile highlighting the key responsibilities for all volunteers
  - Identify the skills and experience required for each role and draw up a person specification
  - Request appropriate identification documents (e.g. passport or driving licence, etc) to confirm the identity and current and recent addresses of each applicant
  - As a minimum, meet and chat with the applicant(s) and, wherever possible, conduct an interview before a recruitment decision is made
  - Request and follow up at least two references from persons who are not related to the applicant before any appointment is made
  - Require an RFL CRB Enhanced Disclosure wherever appropriate, in accordance with Rugby Football League policy, regulations and guidelines
  - Substantiate any required qualifications (e.g. coaching certificates) before confirming an appointment
  - Ensure that the person(s) appointed are made aware of, and sign up to, the Club's Safeguarding Policy and Codes of Conduct.

7. All current Wigan St Patricks ARLFC members who regularly care for, supervise, train, or are in sole charge of or have direct access to children, young people or vulnerable adults will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure application for submission to the Rugby Football League's CRB Unit. If concerns arise regarding the appropriateness of any individual who is already involved in Wigan St Patricks ARLFC, or who has asked to become part of the Club, the Club will request guidance on the matter from the Rugby Football League. The Club recognises and fully accepts that, in considering the matter, the Rugby Football League will take into account the relevance and significance of any information obtained from its CRB Unit and the CRB Enhanced Disclosure and that all decisions made and guidance given by the Rugby Football League will be in the best interests of the children and young people involved in the Club and in rugby league generally.
8. Further to the above, Wigan St Patricks ARLFC recognises and accepts that the Rugby Football League aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults or from having the opportunity to influence policies or practice concerning children, young people or vulnerable adults. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children, young people or vulnerable adults and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within rugby league and the Club fully subscribes to and endorses this aim.
9. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC also fully supports the Rugby Football League's "Whistle Blowing" policy for reporting concerns, allegations or disclosures relating to the possible abuse of a child, young person or vulnerable adult. Any adult or young person who has concerns in this respect regarding a colleague, is encouraged to report those concerns by contacting the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team on Tel. No: 0844 477 7113, by emailing the Safeguarding Team at [safeguarding@rfl.uk.com](mailto:safeguarding@rfl.uk.com) or by writing to the Safeguarding Team at the RFL, Red Hall, Red Hall Lane, Leeds LS17 8NB or by going directly to the Police, Local Authority Children's Services or the NSPCC. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC encourages everyone involved with the Club to be aware of the Rugby Football League's "Whistle Blowing" Policy and to use it whenever necessary or appropriate.
10. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC has appointed a Club Welfare Officer ("CWO") in accordance with the Rugby Football League's profile for this role. The Club

Welfare Officer has completed the training required for this role by the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Education and Training Strategy and will continue to be involved in all necessary Welfare Officer training provided by the Rugby Football League or the Leagues or other relevant governing bodies to which the Club is affiliated. The CWO is the first point of contact for all Club members and parents, carers or guardians who may have concerns regarding the welfare of any child, young person or vulnerable adult and will liaise directly with the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team and be familiar with the appropriate referral procedures regarding any such concerns. The CWO will also play a proactive role within the Club in increasing awareness amongst Club members of the Rugby Football League's "Respect" programme and instances and examples of poor practice and abuse.

11. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC acknowledges the Rugby Football League's identification of bullying as a category of abuse and fully endorses the Rugby Football League's Anti-Bullying Policy (see Appendix 2 below). The Club is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for each of our members so that they can participate in all Wigan St Patricks ARLFC activities in a relaxed and secure environment and bullying of any kind will not be tolerated and is entirely unacceptable within our Club. All players, parents, carers or guardians should know that they can report any incident or occurrence of bullying and be confident that this will be investigated and dealt with promptly and appropriately. Any suspected or alleged incidents of bullying should be reported to the CWO or, alternatively, in the most serious cases, to the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team direct.
  
12. The Rugby Football League's "Respect" Codes of Conduct for Players, Coaches, Club Officials, Volunteers, Administrators, Parents, Carers and Spectators have been adopted and implemented by Wigan St Patricks ARLFC. In order to validate and implement these Codes of Conduct, the Club has identified clear actions that it will take at Club level in the event

of serious or repeated misconduct and acknowledges the possibility that potential sanctions may also be implemented by the Rugby Football League or by the Leagues or other relevant governing bodies to which the Club is affiliated in more serious circumstances. All members of the Club are required to agree and comply with these Codes of Conduct when taking part in any Wigan St Patricks ARLFC activity and all new or prospective members are informed of these Codes of Conduct upon applying to become a member of the Club.

### **Reporting Concerns about the Welfare of a Child or Young Person**

13. Safeguarding the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility. If anyone concerned or associated with Wigan St Patricks ARLFC is worried about a child, young person or vulnerable adult, it is essential that they report those concerns immediately - no action is not an option.
- Anyone worried about a child, young person or vulnerable adult needs to report their concerns to the CWO.
  - If the issue is a matter of poor practice, the CWO will either:
    - deal with the matter themselves, or
    - seek advice from the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team
  - If the concern is more serious, possibly extending to abuse, the CWO will, wherever possible, contact the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team, then immediately contact the Police or Local Authority Adult or Children's Services as appropriate
  - If the child, young person or vulnerable adult needs immediate medical attention or treatment, they should be taken to a hospital. Alternatively, an ambulance should be called and advised, where appropriate, that this is a child protection concern. The Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team should be advised of the action taken.
  - If at any time contact is unable to be made with the CWO or the matter is serious, either:

- contact should be made directly with the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team on Tel. No: 0844 477 7113, or
  - the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline should be called for advice on Tel. No: 0808 800 5000
  - contact should be made with the Police on Tel. No: 0161 872 5050 or the Local Authority Children's Services Team on Tel. No: 01942 828300 or Adult Services Team on 01942 828777, or 0161 834 2436 outside office hours.
14. The Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Policy can be seen: [here](#). This outlines in detail what to do if there are concerns about the welfare of a child, including flow diagrams to describe the process. This is also discussed within the Rugby Football League's "Safeguarding and Protecting Children" and "Time To Listen" Workshops, in which participants are given an opportunity to discuss how such concerns feel and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation.
15. Further advice on safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults can be obtained from:
- The NSPCC Child Protection 24 hour Helpline on Tel. No: 0808 800 5000
  - The Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team on Tel. No: 0844 477 7113 (Option 6)
  - Email to: [safeguarding@rfl.uk.com](mailto:safeguarding@rfl.uk.com)
  - The Rugby Football League's Safeguarding website: [rflsafeguarding](http://rflsafeguarding)
  - Writing to the Safeguarding Team at the RFL, Red Hall, Red Hall Lane, Leeds LS17 8NB
16. This Safeguarding Policy has been approved and is fully supported by the Committee of Wigan St Patricks ARLFC and by the Club Welfare Officer, who is responsible for its implementation. The policy was accepted and adopted by the Club on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 and replaces all previous versions prior to that date.



## Rugby League Club Safeguarding Policy

### 1 Safeguarding Policy

**WIGAN ST. PATRICKS AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB** acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child, young person and vulnerable adult who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all of its members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 involved in any club football activity. A vulnerable adult is anyone who may be unable to take care of himself or herself or be unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or exploitation. We subscribe to the RFL Safeguarding Policy (revised version 2007) and endorse and accept the Policy Statement contained in that document.

### 2 The key principles of the RFL Safeguarding Policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, ethnic origin, gender, special needs, disability, class or social background, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, colour or political persuasion.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately

3 We acknowledge that every child or young person or vulnerable adult who plays or participates in rugby league should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

4 The Rugby League Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that the RFL Safeguarding Policy and related regulations applies to everybody in rugby league whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper, coach, club official or medical staff.

5 We endorse and adopt the RFL's Safeguarding Policy on recruiting volunteers and staff and will follow the recruitment procedures as set out in that policy and summarised below:

- Develop a job description or role profile
- As a minimum meet and chat with applicants and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
- Request and follow up two references before appointing
- Apply for an RFL CRB Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with RFL policy

All current Rugby League Club members with direct access to children, young people and vulnerable adults will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced disclosure via the RFL CRB unit.

It is accepted that the RFL aims to prevent people with a history relevant and significant offending from having contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults and prevent them having the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children or young people or vulnerable adults and to minimise the risk of grooming within rugby league.

- 6 The Rugby League Club supports the RFL's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can whistle blow by contacting the RFL Safeguarding team (see details below).
- 7 The Rugby League Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with the RFL's role profile. The CWO will take part in training as defined in the RFL's Safeguarding Education and Training Strategy. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members and parents/carers regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person or vulnerable adult. The CWO will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns and will play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.
- 8 We acknowledge and endorse the RFL's Anti Bullying Policy. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and to know that bullying will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO and in the case of serious bullying or adult on child bullying to the RFL Safeguarding Team.
- 9 The RESPECT Code of Conduct for coaches, players, officials, parents/carers, officials and coaches has been implemented by The Rugby League Club. The Club has a fair disciplinary system and clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be applied by Leagues or the RFL in more serious circumstances. All prospective members will be informed of these codes.
- 10 Further advice on Safeguarding matters can be obtained from:

The NSPCC Child Protection 24 hour Helpline 0808 800 5000

The RFL Safeguarding Team on 0844 477 7113 Option 6 or by emailing to [safeguarding@rfl.uk.com](mailto:safeguarding@rfl.uk.com) or writing to the Safeguarding team at the RFL, Red Hall, Red Hall Lane, Leeds, LS17 8NB. General advice is available at [www.rfl.uk.com](http://www.rfl.uk.com)

**Signed on behalf of Wigan St. Patricks Amateur Rugby League Club**

by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairperson**

Name **Jodie Whittle** \_\_\_\_\_

Date **27<sup>th</sup> April, 2011** \_\_\_\_\_

