

Safeguarding Frequently Asked Questions



What to look for when your child joins a club.....

- Leaders are safely recruited - Have signed Declaration of Intent and are vetted
- Codes of Conduct for players, coaches, spectators, parents and referees are available
- Training is available for coaches and volunteers
- Club Welfare Officer is in place
- Safety guidelines in place
- Good Adult to Age-Grade player ratios at training sessions
- Training & playing schedule available
- Selection focuses on inclusion, playing and skill development
- Player registration and membership is in place

What do IRFU expect of our players?

- All players to be registered and to have their registration cards with them at matches where necessary.
- Membership fees to be paid on time as part of the player insurance.
- To engage with the training plan and playing schedule of the club.
- To have the right attitude towards training, playing, team mates, leaders, selection and representing the club.
- To respect the Ethos, Laws of the Game and traditions of rugby.
- To have the appropriate training and playing kit:

For matches:

Club jersey / shorts and sock and gum shield (properly fitted)

For training:

Jersey / socks / shorts / gum shield - ensure kit is warm and safe (no zips/ strings or sharp edges etc.)

- Check with coaches if additional equipment/requirements are in place

What do we expect of Leaders?

- Should be recruited through the club, with assistance from the IRFU vetting department with vetting
- To be appropriately qualified and keep up-to-date with age appropriate sports information.
- Plan and prepare for matches & training sessions.
- Be fair when dealing with players and particularly when dealing with selection and inclusion issues.
- Set the right example and be approachable at all times

What do we expect of parents?

- Always support your child in his/her efforts - don't let your ambitions rule their experience.
- Ensure your child(ren) have required kit whether training or playing.
- Attend matches and training as much as possible to ensure you are informed.
- Volunteer to assist the club when available.
- Ensure you and your child are on time for sessions/ matches and especially when collecting your child after such events.
- Respect the club and volunteer efforts - join the club!
- Adhere to the Code of Conduct for Parents.

What is expected of clubs?

- Have a policy on child welfare, recruitment, best practice, selection, training and fixtures.
- Ensure adherence to all Codes of Conduct.
- Ensure all coaches are appropriately qualified.
- Appoint a Club Welfare Officer and ensure access to appropriate training.
- Committees (youth and mini) to meet regularly to ensure adherence to all club policies.
- Strive to create a safe environment for all rugby activities

The value of the Safeguarding Policy

- An agreed policy to ensure enjoyment; inclusion and fair play - elements that supports a child-centred and sustainable club environment.
- Promotes properly recruited and qualified coaches to ensure quality coaching.
- The appointment of Club Welfare Officers allows the interest of age-grade players to be represented.
- Encourages respect and dignity for all participants.
- Supports sportsmanship and fair play, promotes the tradition of rugby and is the values of Irish rugby in action.