



ESSINGTON RUGBY CLUB: SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK POLICY

1. POLICY STATEMENT

ERUFC is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all members and recognises that some adults may be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

The club will work to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all participants.

2. WHO IS AN ADULT AT RISK?

An adult at risk is a person aged 18 or over who:

- Has care and support needs; and
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- May be unable to protect themselves.

ERUFC is committed to promoting the wellbeing, dignity, rights and independence of adults at risk.

The Club will:

- Empower individuals to make informed choices about their own safety and wellbeing.
 - Promote dignity, respect and inclusion.
 - Take concerns seriously and respond appropriately.
 - Work in partnership with individuals, families and relevant agencies.
 - Recognise that adults have the right to make decisions about their own lives wherever they have the capacity to do so.
 - Ensure safeguarding practices are proportionate and person-centred.
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3A. TYPES OF ABUSE

Abuse may include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse

- Sexual abuse
 - Financial abuse
 - Discriminatory abuse
 - Domestic abuse
 - Neglect
 - Self-neglect
 - Online abuse
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3B. RECOGNISING ABUSE

Indicators of abuse may include:

- Unexplained injuries.
- Sudden changes in behaviour or mood.
- Signs of fear, distress or intimidation.
- Financial difficulties or unusual financial transactions.
- Poor living conditions or neglect of personal care.
- Social isolation.
- Unexplained withdrawal from club activities.
- Evidence of online exploitation or harassment.

The presence of one indicator does not necessarily mean abuse has occurred; however, concerns should always be taken seriously and reported appropriately.

4A. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

ERUFC will:

- Promote dignity and respect.
 - Take concerns seriously.
 - Encourage reporting of concerns.
 - Work with statutory agencies where appropriate.
 - Support affected individuals.
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4B. MENTAL CAPACITY & CONSENT

ERUFC recognises the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Where safeguarding concerns involve an adult at risk, consideration will be given to:

- The individual's wishes and views.
- Their ability to understand information and make decisions.
- Their right to make choices where they have capacity.
- The need to protect individuals where risks are significant.

The Club will seek to involve adults at risk in safeguarding decisions wherever possible whilst recognising that there may be circumstances where information must be shared to prevent serious harm.

5. REPORTING CONCERNS

Any safeguarding concern regarding an adult at risk must be reported as soon as possible in accordance with the ERUFC Reporting Safeguarding Concerns Procedure.

Primary Safeguarding Contact

Sophie Lockley

Club Safeguarding Officer

Email: safeguarding.erufc@gmail.com

Alternative Reporting Route

Where a concern relates to the Club Safeguarding Officer, the Club Safeguarding Officer is unavailable, or an individual does not feel comfortable reporting directly to the Club Safeguarding Officer, the concern may be reported to Phil Breakwell, Mental Health Lead and Inclusion & Diversity Officer, as the club's Alternative Reporting Contact.

Where a concern relates to the Alternative Reporting Contact, or an individual does not feel comfortable using either club reporting route, the concern may be raised directly with Staffordshire Rugby, the RFU Safeguarding Team, Adult Social Care or the Police as appropriate.

If an adult is in immediate danger, call 999 and then inform the Club Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible.

RESPONDING TO A DISCLOSURE

If an adult at risk discloses abuse or a safeguarding concern:

DO

- Remain calm.
- Listen carefully.
- Take the individual seriously.
- Record information accurately.

- Explain what will happen next.
- Report concerns appropriately.

DO NOT

- Promise absolute confidentiality.
 - Investigate the matter yourself.
 - Ask leading questions.
 - Confront alleged perpetrators.
 - Delay reporting concerns.
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6. CONFIDENTIALITY

Information will be handled sensitively and shared only where necessary to protect individuals, manage safeguarding concerns or meet legal obligations. The wishes of the adult at risk will be considered wherever possible, but absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed where safeguarding action or disclosure is required.

6A. GOVERNANCE NOTIFICATION

The Club Chairman may be informed that a safeguarding matter is being managed where this is necessary for club governance, risk management or operational action. Confidential safeguarding information will only be shared where there is a legitimate need to know. The full Committee will not routinely receive confidential safeguarding case information.

6B. PROTECTION FOR THOSE RAISING CONCERNS

Anyone raising a safeguarding concern in good faith will be supported and will not be subjected to victimisation or detrimental treatment. Information will be treated sensitively and shared only with those who need to know in order to respond appropriately.

7. RECORD KEEPING AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Safeguarding records will:

- Be factual and accurate.
- Be stored securely.
- Be shared only on a need-to-know basis.
- Comply with applicable data protection legislation.

Information may be shared without consent where there is a concern that an individual or others may be at risk of serious harm or where legal obligations require disclosure.

8. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Club Safeguarding Officer
- ERUFC Committee

The policy may be reviewed sooner following:

- Changes in legislation
- Changes in RFU guidance
- Significant safeguarding incidents

Document Title: Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy

Version: 2.0

Policy Owner: Club Safeguarding Officer

Approved By: ERUFC Committee

Effective Date: September 2026

Review Date: Annually

Next Review Due: September 2027