

## **CURRIE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB** **POLICY ON PROTECTING CHILDREN**

The Currie Rugby Club Youth Section shall adhere to and be governed by the Child Protection Policy of Currie RFC. Currie Rugby Club is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people in its care. It recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation. Staff and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of children and young people. This section outlines Currie Rugby Club's commitment to protecting children and young people.

At all times, Currie Rugby Club will comply with the Scottish Rugby Union's Child Protection Guidelines. These guidelines are based on the following principles:

- The welfare of children and young people is the primary concern.
- All children and young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
- Child protection is everyone's responsibility.
- Children and young people have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so.
- Organisations shall work in partnership together with children, young people and parents to promote the welfare, health and development of children and young people.

Currie Rugby Club will:

- Promote the health and welfare of children and young people by providing opportunities for them to take part in rugby safely.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children and young people.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well being of children and young people and protect them from abuse.
- Recruit, train, support and supervise its staff, members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and young people from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves.
- Require staff, members and volunteers to adopt and abide by this Child Protection Policy and these procedures.
- Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children and young people in line with this Policy and these procedures as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Observe guidelines issued by local Child Protection Committees for the protection of children and young people.

- Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Policy and these procedures.

### **Child Protection Coordinator**

The Currie Rugby Club Child Protection Coordinator is responsible for implementing the Scottish Rugby Union Child Protection Policy and Procedures, undertaking the relevant checks with Disclosure Scotland and will report to the Club's Management Committee. As the main contact within the Club for the protection of children, he/she will encourage good practice and support of procedures to protect children, keep abreast of developments and understand the latest information on data protection, confidentiality and other legal issues that impact on the protection of children. Where necessary, the Child Protection Coordinator will maintain confidential records of reported cases, any action taken and liaise with the statutory agencies and ensure they have access to all necessary information. Reported cases, concerns and action taken will be reported to the Scottish Rugby Union Child Protection Officer.

Information provided to statutory organisations will remain confidential unless permission has been given to share the information by the individual concerned or the safety of that person or another person may be at risk.

If there is a reasonable concern that a child may be at risk of significant harm, this will always override a professional or organisational requirement to keep information confidential. It is good practice to inform parents and children about the kind of situations which may lead to them having to share information with other agencies.

### **Concerns about the General Welfare of a Child**

Currie Rugby Club is committed to working in partnership with parents whenever there are concerns about a child. Parents have the primary responsibility for the safety and well being of their children and, in most situations not involving the possibility of the abuse of a child, concerns will be discussed with parents. For example, if a child seems withdrawn, he/she may have experienced an upset in the family, such as a parental separation, divorce or bereavement. Common sense is advised in these situations. Any significant, untoward or unusual incidents which cause concern about the welfare of a child will be recorded and reported to Scottish Rugby Child Protection Officer as soon as possible. Parents will also be informed of the circumstances as soon as possible.

### **What to Do if a Child Tells You about Abuse**

Allegations of abuse must always be taken seriously, false allegations are very rare, and, if a child says or indicates they are being abused or information is obtained

which gives concern that a child is being abused, the information must be responded to on the same day in line with the following procedure.

**Response:**

- React calmly so as not to frighten the child.
- Listen to the child and take what they say seriously. Do not show disbelief.
- Reassure the child they are not to blame and were right to tell someone.
- Be aware of interpreting what a child says, especially if they have learning or physical disabilities which affect their ability to communicate or English is not their first language.
- Do not assume that the experience was bad or painful - it may have been neutral or even pleasurable.
- Avoid projecting your own reactions onto the child.
- Avoid asking any questions. If necessary only ask enough questions to gain basic information to establish the possibility that abuse may have occurred. Only use open-ended, non-leading questions e.g. Who? Where? When?
- Do not introduce personal information from either your own experiences or those of other children.

**Avoid:**

- Panicking.
- Showing shock or distaste.
- Probing for more information than is offered.
- Speculating or making assumptions.
- Making negative comments about the person against whom the allegation has been made.
- Approaching the individual against whom the allegation has been made.
- Making promises or agreeing to keep secrets and giving a guarantee of confidentiality.

Where there is uncertainty about what to do with the information, Currie Rugby Club's Child Protection Officer must be consulted for advice on the appropriate course of action. If the Club's Child Protection Officer is unavailable or an immediate response is required the police and social work services must be consulted for advice. They have a statutory responsibility for the protection of children and they may already hold other concerning information about the child. Record any advice given.

Make a written record of the information as soon as possible. The following information will help the police and social workers decide what action to take next:

- Child's name, age and date of birth.
- Child's home address and telephone number.
- Any times, dates or other relevant information.

- Whether the person making the report is expressing their own concern or the concerns of another person.
- The child's account, if it can be given, of what has happened and how any injuries occurred using the child's own words.
- The nature of the concern (include all of the information obtained during the initial account e.g. time, date, location).
- A description of any visible (when normally dressed) injuries or bruising, behavioural signs, indirect signs (do not physically examine the child).
- Details of any witnesses.
- Whether the child's parents have been informed.
- Details of anyone else who has been consulted and the information obtained from them.
- If it is not the child making the report, whether the child has been spoken to, if so what was said using the child's own words.
- The child's views on the situation.

### **Sharing Concerns with Parents**

Where there are concerns that the parent(s) may be responsible for or have knowledge of the abuse, sharing concerns with the parent(s) may place the child at further risk. In such cases advice must always firstly be sought from the police or social work services as to who informs the parents.

### **Useful Contact Numbers**

Police - 101 (In an emergency call 999)

[www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)

Children and Families Social Care Direct - 0131 200 2324

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/childprotection](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/childprotection)

Emergency Social Work Service - 0800 731 6969

**IF IN DOUBT CONTACT THE CLUB'S CHILD PROTECTION COORDINATOR FOR ADVICE**

**IF A CHILD IS IN IMMEDIATE RISK OF HARM OR ABUSE, CONTACT POLICE OR SOCIAL WORK AT ONE OF THE ABOVE NUMBERS**

**DONALD URQUHART, CURRIE RFC CHILD PROTECTION COORDINATOR**

[donald.g.urquhart@gmail.com](mailto:donald.g.urquhart@gmail.com) – 07702-793553