



# Ryton Youth Rugby

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## Child protection procedures

Ryton Youth Rugby operates the Child / Young Player Protection Policy of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW). The purpose of the policy is to ensure that everyone taking part in the Youth Rugby activities — players, parents, referees, coaches and spectators — is able to enjoy maximum benefit without fear of abuse of any kind. This places obligations as well as rights on all concerned. The procedures outlined here are a requirement of that policy. They explain the steps you should take if you have any concerns about child welfare and also outline what you can expect to happen as a result.

The Policy requires that a '*Person in Charge*' takes responsibility for child protection. This ensures that everyone knows the correct channels for reporting any issues concerning the safety of children and also knows who to ask for guidance on any related issues. For the current season (2003 – 2004) the nominated *Person in Charge* is:

Tom Knott  
Tel: 01207 544716  
Mobile: 07931 338275  
Fax: 0870 138 7666  
email: tom.knott@rytonrfc.co.uk

It is the responsibility of the *Person in Charge* to ensure that they are adequately prepared to handle child protection issues and to seek appropriate professional guidance. Such matters **will** be handled strictly in accordance with the RFU/RFUW Child Protection Policy.

Any concerns, no matter how apparently trivial, should be brought to the attention of the *Person in Charge*. All such communications will be treated in the strictest confidence *and will be responded to*. Obviously any cases of abuse, whether deliberate or arising from ignorance, will be handled with the utmost urgency. (*Note: if the allegation relates to the Person in Charge it should be referred to professional staff of the RFU or RFUW.*)

If required, forms for recording allegations of suspicious behaviour are available from coaches or from the *Person in Charge*. These help to ensure that only pertinent information is recorded.

If the matter raised clearly constitutes illegal abuse, the *Person in Charge* is required to ensure the safety of the child or children concerned and then to report the matter to Social Services and the RFU/RFUW.

More commonly, however, the issue raised may concern poor practice rather than abuse or it may be unclear which category applies. In this case the *Person in Charge* should always consult with professional RFU/RFUW staff (and to seek advice from Social Services or the NCPCC where there is any doubt). This is because it may be just one of a series of other instances which, taken together, cause concern. It is acknowledged that feelings generated by the discovery that a member of staff or volunteer is, or may be, abusing a child, will raise concerns among other staff or volunteers, including the difficulties inherent in reporting such matters. However, it is important that any concerns for the welfare of the child arising from abuse or harassment by a member of staff or volunteer should be reported immediately.

Prevention, of course, is better than cure and it is incumbent upon all officials to observe best practice at all times. All Ryton Youth Rugby coaches are required to provide information about themselves and to agree to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. Coaches must also be acquainted with the club's Coaching Guidelines and the Code of Conduct. Both these documents are based on the RFU/RFUW Child Protection Policy document: complying with them will go a long way to ensuring that all the children entrusted to our care can enjoy our sport in a safe and secure environment.

If you require any more information about child protection and welfare, please contact the nominated person in charge.