



BORDERS RUGBY REFEREES' SOCIETY – SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Principle of Safeguarding

Participating in sports, including rugby, can be a positive and fun experience for children and young people. Scottish Rugby and Borders Rugby Referees' Society (BRRS) is committed to ensuring that all children and young people feel safe and are protected from harm.

All adults involved in the coaching or supervision of children and young people have a duty to safeguard welfare. This duty extends to the prevention of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of any young person and is applied regardless of a young person's background or any protected characteristic.

Rugby referee societies, like rugby clubs, follow the advice and guidance set out by Scottish Rugby Union: <https://www.scottishrugby.org/safeguarding/>

Protecting Vulnerable Groups Checks

The Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme managed by Disclosure Scotland helps to ensure people who are unsuitable to work with children and protected and vulnerable adults cannot do certain types of work or activities. All coaches of match officials who are under the age of 18 must seek registration with the PVG scheme or undertake a Scheme Record Update, if necessary.

All coaches of under 18 match officials in BRRS have undergone a PVG check.

If any future coaches of under 18 match officials are recruited or appointed, then BRRS will ensure they undergo a PVG check and acknowledges the Disclosure Scotland referrals process and agrees to action a referral if required.

SCRUMS

All match officials, including match official coaches, must be registered on the Scottish Rugby Union's database – SCRUMS.

Details on PVG checks, including the scheme number for an individual will be added to the SCRUMS profile of that person by the Scottish Rugby Union's safeguarding team.

Definitions

As defined by Sport Scotland and as adopted by the Scottish Rugby Union, child protection relates to all children and young people who are under the age of 18, regardless of their background or role in the game.

Our Commitment

BRRS acknowledges its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of all children and young people in our referee society from harm and recognises that all children and young people have the right to participate in rugby union in a safe, enjoyable and positive environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect or poor practice.

BRRS adheres to the Scottish Rugby Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, guidelines, and practices contained in that document and any successor policy.

The BRRS Committee, under the guidance of the President, commits to the protection of children and young people and utilises the nationally appointed match officials Child Protection Officer (CPO), Ronan MacHugh who is part of the Edinburgh Rugby Referees' Society. The contact details for the BRRS President and the CPO are below. The CPO has undergone the relevant safeguarding training as directed by Scottish Rugby.

The BRRS President or CPO can be contacted at any time if there are any concerns regarding child protection and safeguarding and will take appropriate action.

BRRS commits to ensuring all allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.

Concerns regarding a child can be raised in many different situations and it is essential that all staff and volunteers know that they must respond and report to any information that is disclosed to them – we commit to ensuring our members and Committee follow the due process set out by Scottish Rugby, including passing concerns to the relevant authorities.

If you wish to report a concern or allegation or suspicion, you should follow this process: [Report a Concern - Scottish Rugby](#) or immediately contact the President or CPO.

If you are concerned about the immediate safety of the child:

- **Take whatever action is required to ensure the child's immediate safety.**
- **Pass the information immediately to Police Scotland and seek their advice – either by calling 101 or 999**

Further Information

Scottish Rugby Safeguarding Policy: [Safeguarding - Scottish Rugby](#)

Identifying and reporting a concern: [Report a Concern - Scottish Rugby](#)

Contacts

BRRS President and PVG Coordinator, Steven Turnbull	Steventurnbull1@hotmail.co.uk	07957 490 005
Referee Child Protection Officer, Ronan MacHugh	machugh_cs@hotmail.co.uk	07830 195 962
SRU Child Wellbeing and Protection Manager, Faye Henderson	Faye.Henderson@sru.org.uk	07976 279 473
SRU Child Wellbeing and Protection Advisor, Clare Forrest	Clare.Forrest@sru.org.uk	07966 902 246

Useful Links

[UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - UNICEF UK](#)

[RugbyRight \(Online\) – Scottish Rugby](#)

www.nspcc.org.uk/ 0808 800 5000

www.childline.org.uk/ 0800 1111