

CHILD PROTECTION GUIDANCE FOR MATCH OFFICIALS

With the continued growth of rugby involving young players, it is essential that referees are aware of the need to follow the guidelines to ensure that the welfare of both referee and players is safeguarded.

When refereeing young players match officials must: -

- Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating young players
- Provide verbal feedback in a positive way during games
- Appreciate the needs of the players
- Be a positive role model
- Recognise that safety is paramount
- Explain decisions – most young players are still learning

Officials must not

- Change in the same area as young players
- Shower with young players – agree with the coaches a timetable
- Be alone with young players at any time – if a young player comes into the dressing room ensure another adult is present
- Check studs without the coach being present
- Administer first aid
- Allow a young player to continue playing if you have doubts about their fitness
- Tolerate bad language from young players
- Engage in any inappropriate contact with young players
- Give a lift to a player unless there are other young people or adults in the car and parents are aware
- Overly criticise young players or use language which may cause the player to lose confidence or self esteem
- Make sexually explicit remarks to young players even in fun

Officials must always

- Report, in writing, to the club or CB Welfare Officer and their Member Society Secretary, behaviour by adults which you feel contravenes RFU Child Protection Policy
 - Verbal bullying by coaches / parents / spectators
 - Physical abuse by coaches / parents / spectators
 - Inappropriate or aggressive contact by an adult to a young person
 - Verbal abuse directed at you by young people or adults

REMEMBER

“THE WELFARE OF ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IS PARAMOUNT”

PLEASE NOTE

From 1 September 2005, only those Match Officials who have received CRB clearance will be appointed to games at Under 18 and below. Members are asked to contact their Member Society Secretary to ensure they are cleared to officiate.