



**WIGAN ST. PATRICKS
ARLFC**

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
POLICY**



Wigan St. Patricks ARLFC

Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Every child or young person who plays or participates in Rugby League should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all of its members. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in our Club.
2. A child or young person for the purposes of this Policy is anyone under the age of 18 who is engaged in any Rugby League activity.
3. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC subscribes to the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures (which can be seen [here](#)) and endorses and adopts the RFL's Safeguarding Policy Statement contained in that document (see Appendix 1 below).
4. The key principles of the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Policy are that:
 - The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
 - All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse, regardless of their age, gender, ability, disability, race, culture, language, racial origin, religious or other faith or beliefs, sexual orientation or social background

- All suspicions and allegations of abuse or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
 - Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential to the effectiveness of the Safeguarding Children Policy
5. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC recognises and readily accepts its role in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people entrusted to its care by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. The Club further recognises and accepts that the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Children Policy applies to everyone involved in Rugby League, whether in a voluntary or paid capacity. This includes everyone who is a player, coach, match official, medical or first aid staff, Club official, administrator, volunteer, helper on Club tours, parent, carer or spectator.
6. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC endorses and adopts the Rugby Football League's Safer Recruitment Guidelines for the responsible recruitment of volunteers and staff, as set out in Section 3.3 of the RFL's Safeguarding Policy, and will:
- Develop a job description or role profile specifying the role and highlighting the key responsibilities for all volunteers and staff
 - Identify the skills and experience required for each role and draw up a person specification
 - Request appropriate identification documents (e.g. passport or driving licence, etc) to confirm the identity and current and recent addresses of each applicant
 - As a minimum, meet and chat with the applicant(s) and, wherever possible, conduct an interview before a recruitment decision is made
 - Request and follow up at least two references from persons who are not related to the applicant before any appointment is made
 - Require an RFL Enhanced DBS Disclosure wherever appropriate, in accordance with Rugby Football League policy, regulations and guidelines
 - Substantiate any required qualifications (e.g. coaching certificates) before confirming an appointment
 - Ensure that the person(s) appointed are made aware of, and sign up to, the Club's Safeguarding Children Policy and Codes of Conduct.

7. All current Wigan St Patricks ARLFC members, volunteers and staff who regularly care for, supervise, train, or are in sole charge of or have direct access to children and young people will be required to complete an Enhanced DBS Disclosure application for submission to the Rugby Football League's DBS Unit as part of responsible recruitment practice. If concerns arise regarding the appropriateness of any individual who is already involved in Wigan St Patricks ARLFC, or who has asked to become part of the Club, the Club will request guidance on the matter from the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team. The Club recognises and fully accepts that, in considering the matter, the Rugby Football League will take into account the relevance and significance of any information obtained from its DBS Unit and the Enhanced DBS Disclosure and that all decisions made and guidance given by the Rugby Football League will be in the best interests of the children and young people involved in the Club and in Rugby League generally.
8. Further to the above, Wigan St Patricks ARLFC recognises and accepts that the Rugby Football League aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people or from having the opportunity to influence policies or practice concerning children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and young people and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within Rugby League and the Club fully subscribes to and endorses this aim.
9. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC also fully supports the Rugby Football League's "Whistle Blowing" policy for reporting concerns, allegations or disclosures relating to the possible abuse of a child or young person. Any adult or young person who has concerns in this respect regarding an adult in a position of trust within Rugby League, is encouraged to report those concerns by contacting the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team on Tel. No: 07595 520610 or by emailing the RFL's Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@rfl.uk.com or by writing to the Safeguarding Team at the RFL, Red Hall, Red Hall Lane, Leeds LS17 8NB or by going directly to the Police, Local Authority Children's Social Care or the NSPCC. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC encourages everyone involved with the Club to be aware of the Rugby Football League's "Whistle Blowing" Policy and to use it whenever necessary or appropriate.
10. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC has appointed a Club Welfare Officer ("CWO") in line with the requirements of the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Children Policy and in accordance with the Rugby Football League's profile

for this role. The Club Welfare Officer has completed the training required for this role by the Rugby Football League and will continue to take part in all further training and take up all continuing professional development determined for the post by the Rugby Football League or the Leagues or other relevant governing bodies to which the Club is affiliated. The CWO is the first point of contact for all Club members and parents, carers or guardians who may have concerns regarding the welfare of any child or young person and will liaise directly with the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Manager and be familiar and trained in the appropriate referral procedures regarding any such concerns. The CWO will also play a proactive role within the Club in increasing awareness amongst Club members of the Rugby Football League's "Respect" programme and instances and examples of poor practice, inappropriate touchline behaviour and abuse.

11. Wigan St Patricks ARLFC recognises and acknowledges the Rugby Football League's identification of bullying as a category of abuse and fully endorses the Rugby Football League's Anti-Bullying Policy (see Appendix 2 below). The Club is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for each of our members and for everyone participating in Rugby League so that they can take part in a relaxed and secure environment. Bullying of any kind (including cyber bullying) will not be tolerated and is entirely unacceptable within our Club and we will take a stance of zero tolerance if any instance of bullying occurs or arises. All players, parents, carers or guardians should know that they can report any incident or occurrence of bullying and be confident that this will be investigated and dealt with promptly and appropriately. Any suspected or alleged incidents of bullying should be reported to the CWO or, alternatively, in the most serious cases, to the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Manager direct.

12. The Rugby Football League's "Respect" Codes of Conduct for Players, Coaches, Club Officials, Administrators, Volunteers, Parents, Carers and Spectators have been adopted and implemented by Wigan St Patricks ARLFC. In order to validate and implement these Codes of Conduct, the Club has

identified clear actions that it will take at Club level in the event of serious or repeated misconduct and acknowledges the possibility that potential sanctions may also be implemented by the Rugby Football League or by the Leagues or other relevant governing bodies to which the Club is affiliated in more serious circumstances. All members of the Club are required to agree and comply with these Codes of Conduct when taking part in any Wigan St Patricks ARLFC activity and all new or prospective members are informed of these Codes of Conduct upon applying to become a member of the Club.

Reporting Concerns about the Welfare of a Child or Young Person

13. Safeguarding the welfare of children and young people is everyone's responsibility. If anyone concerned or associated with Wigan St Patricks ARLFC is worried about a child or young person, it is essential that they report those concerns immediately - no action is not an option.
- Anyone worried about a child or young person needs to report their concerns to the CWO.
 - If the issue is a matter of poor practice, the CWO will either:
 - deal with the matter themselves, or
 - seek advice from the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Manager
 - If the concern is more serious, possibly extending to child abuse, the CWO should, wherever possible, be contacted first and then immediate contact should also be made with the Police or Local Authority Children's Social Care, as appropriate
 - If the child or young person needs immediate medical attention or treatment, they should be taken to a hospital. Alternatively, an ambulance should be called and advised, where appropriate, that this is a child protection concern. The CWO should also be informed of the action taken and will advise the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Manager.
 - If at any time contact is unable to be made with the CWO or the matter is clearly serious, either:
 - contact should be made directly with the Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Manager by email to safeguarding@rfl.uk.com or on Tel. No: 07595 520610, or

- contact should be made with the Police on Tel. No: 101 or 0161 872 5050 or the Local Authority Children's Social Care Team on Tel. No: 01942 828300 or, outside office hours, on 01942 828777 or 0161 834 2436
 - the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline should be called for advice on Tel. No: 0808 800 5000 or text to 88858 or email to help@nspcc.org.uk .
14. The Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures can be seen: [here](#) and are also available on the RFL's website [here](#) . These outline in detail what to do if there are concerns about the welfare of a child and describe the process. This is also discussed within the Rugby Football League's "Safeguarding and Protecting Children" and "Time To Listen" Workshops for Club Welfare Officers, in which participants are given an opportunity to discuss how such concerns feel and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation.
15. Further advice and guidance on safeguarding children matters can be obtained from:
- The Wigan St Patricks ARLFC Club Welfare Officer, Jeff Stuart, on Tel No. 07821 359481 or by email to jeff.stuart@hotmail.co.uk
 - The Rugby Football League's Safeguarding Team on Tel. No: 07595 520610 or by email to: safeguarding@rfl.uk.com
 - The Rugby Football League's Safeguarding website: rflsafeguarding
 - Writing to the Safeguarding Team at the RFL, Red Hall, Red Hall Lane, Leeds LS17 8NB
 - The NSPCC Child Protection 24 hour Helpline on Tel. No: 0808 800 5000 or by email to: help@nspcc.org.uk
16. This Safeguarding Children Policy has been approved and is fully supported by the Committee of Wigan St Patricks ARLFC and by the Wigan St Patricks Club Welfare Officer, who is responsible for its implementation. The policy was accepted and adopted by the Club on 6th February, 2017 and replaces all previous versions prior to that date.



Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures

1. **WIGAN ST. PATRICKS AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB** acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care. We are committed to working to provide a safe environment for all of our members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any Rugby League activity. We subscribe to the RFL Safeguarding Policy contained in that document.
2. The key principles of the RFL Safeguarding Policy are that:
 - The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
 - All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse, regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.
 - All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
 - Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential

We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in Rugby League should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. **WIGAN ST. PATRICKS AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB** recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3. **WIGAN ST. PATRICKS AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB** has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that the RFL Safeguarding Children Policy applies to everyone in Rugby League whether in a voluntary or paid capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, coach, club official, medical or first aid staff or a spectator.
4. We endorse and adopt the RFL Safer Recruitment Guidelines for recruiting volunteers and staff and we will:
 - Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves
 - Request identification documents
 - As a minimum, meet and chat with the applicant and where possible interview them before appointing them
 - Ask for and follow up with two references before appointing someone
 - Where eligible require a RFL enhanced DBS

All current **WIGAN ST. PATRICKS AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB** members working in eligible roles with children and young people must hold a current RFL enhanced DBS as part of responsible recruitment practice.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of the Club, guidance will be sought from the RFL Safeguarding Team.

It is accepted that the RFL aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practices with children and young people. This is to minimise the risk of direct sexual or physical harm to children or young people and the risk of grooming within Rugby League.

5. **WIGAN ST. PATRICKS AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB** supports the RFL's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within Rugby League can "whistle blow" by contacting the RFL by emailing safeguarding@rfl.uk.com or ringing 07595 520610 or, alternatively, by going directly to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC. We encourage everyone to know about the RFL's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.
6. **WIGAN ST. PATRICKS AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB** has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with the requirements of the RFL Safeguarding Children Policy. This CWO will take part in all training required for this post and will take up any ongoing CPD as determined by the RFL. The CWO is the first point of contact for all Club members and parents/carers regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The CWO will be trained in the procedures for referring concerns and will liaise directly with the RFL Safeguarding Manager. They will also be proactive in increasing awareness of "Respect", poor practice, touchline behaviour and abuse amongst Club members.
7. We acknowledge and endorse the RFL's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind (this includes cyber bullying) is not acceptable at our Club and we will take a stance of zero tolerance. If bullying does occur, all players and/or parents/carers should be able to report this and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO and, in cases of serious bullying, the RFL Safeguarding Manager will be contacted.
8. All Club members have signed codes of conduct. The Club will take action against repeated or serious misconduct at Club level and acknowledge the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the Club or the RFL Safeguarding Case Management Group.
9. Reporting concerns about the welfare of a child or young person is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns – no action is not an option.
 - i. If you are worried about a child, then you need to report this to the Club Welfare Officer.
 - ii. If the issue is of poor practice, the CWO will either:
 - Deal with the matter themselves
 - Seek advice from the RFL Safeguarding Manager
 - iii. If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, where possible contact the CWO first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
 - iv. If the child needs immediate medical treatment, take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your CWO know what action you have taken. They in turn will inform the RFL Safeguarding Manager.
 - v. If at any time you are not able to contact your CWO or the matter is clearly serious, you can either:
 - Contact the RFL Safeguarding Manager (details below)
 - Contact the Police or Children's Social Care
 - Call the NSPCC Helpline for advice (0808 800 5000)

NB. The RFL Safeguarding Policy and Procedures are available on the RFL Website. Please go to Child Welfare and click on Safeguarding Children. The Safeguarding Policy can be found under the Parents and Carers, CWOs and Coaches and Volunteers sections.

10. Further advice and guidance on safeguarding children matters can be obtained from: Jeff Stuart, Wigan St Patricks Club Welfare Officer, on Tel. 07821 359481 or by email to jeff.stuart@hotmail.co.uk. The RFL's Safeguarding Team can be contacted on Tel. 07595 520610 or by email to safeguarding@rfl.uk.com.

Signed on behalf of Wigan St. Patricks Amateur Rugby League Club by:

	<hr/>
	Chairperson
Name	<hr/> Catherine Taylor <hr/>
Date	<hr/> 6th February, 2017 <hr/>



APPENDIX 2

Club Anti-Bullying Policy

WIGAN ST. PATRICKS AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB acknowledges its responsibility in line with the RFL's Anti-Bullying Policy.

- The Club is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our members and for everyone participating in Rugby League so that they can take part in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.
- Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our Club.
- If bullying does occur, all Club members, players, parents, guardians, volunteers and coaches should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.
- We are a **TELLING** Club.
- This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the Club Welfare Officer or any Club Committee Member.

Signed on behalf of Wigan St. Patricks Amateur Rugby League Club by:

	Chairperson
Name	_____ Catherine Taylor _____
Date	_____ 6th February, 2017 _____