**Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adult Policy**

The below statement is Garstang Junior Rugby Clubs policy for safeguarding Children and Vulnerable adults. It is produced with guidance and reference to the RFU Safeguarding Policy, (Guidance and procedures). A full copy of this is available either in print or at:<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/policy-and-guidance/>

1. Garstang Rugby Union Football Club (Garstang Rugby Club) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in Garstang Rugby club from harm.
2. Garstang Rugby Club confirms that it adheres to the Rugby Football Unions Safeguarding Policy and procedures, practices and guidelines and endorses and adopts the policy statement contained in that document (see Garstang Junior Rugby Club Management Folder).
3. A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any Rugby Union activity. No person under the age of 17 will be allowed to play for any senior team, when a child reaches the age of 17 (18 for Front row Players) they can play for a senior team but must complete the, playing Adult Rugby Form (RFU Regulation 15.3.7)but they will be ab**l**e to participate in training sessions under controlled circumstances.
4. The key principles of the RFU safeguarding & Vulnerable Adult Policy are that:

* The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult (as appropriate) is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations.
* All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse or harm.
* All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
* Working in partnership with other organisations, statutory agencies, partners, carers, children and young people is essential for the welfare of children and young people.
* Children have a right to expect support, personal and social development, delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted and managed person in relation to their participation in Rugby Union, whether they are playing, volunteering or officiating in the community or professional areas of the sport.

1. Garstang Rugby Club recognises that all children have a right to participate in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect or harm and poor practice. Garstang Rugby Club recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, within the club.
2. Garstang Rugby Club will implement and comply with the RFU code of conduct. Coaches, spectators and officials shall comply with the RFU code of conduct as appropriate. Garstang Rugby Club will ensure its spectators, parents, members and officials are all aware of and have accepted the club photographic policy as set out in the club welcome pack and on the website.
3. Garstang Rugby Club will endeavour to comply with the guidance for websites as set out on the RFU website.
4. The Club Safeguarding Officer is:  
     
   Mrs Nicola Jameson  
   Mobile: 07919368772  
   Email: njameson@hotmail.co.uk
5. If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult has been put at risk you must in the first instance inform the Club Safeguarding Officer. They will inform theRFU Safeguarding. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform the Club Chairman or the RFU Safeguarding   
   In all cases if you are not sure what to do contact either the NSPCC 24 hour Freephone helpline (0800 800 500) or you may leave a message on the RFU Safeguarding Line (0208 831 6655) and a member of the Safeguarding Team will respond.
6. All members of Garstang Rugby Club who have a regular supervisory contact with children or a management responsibility for those working with children must undertake an RFU DBS check.
7. Garstang Rugby Club will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents, players or officials will comply with the best practice guidance as issued by the RFU. In summary, the following are NOT acceptable and must be reported to the CSO or RFU Safeguarding team (if the CSO is unavailable):

* Working alone with a child, children, vulnerable adult, or adults.
* Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for children or vulnerable adults.
* Providing alcohol to children or vulnerable adult.
* Smoking in the presence of children.
* Humiliating children or vulnerable adult.
* Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.
* Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children or vulnerable adults.
* Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or vulnerable adult developed as a result of being in a position of trust.
* Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material with children or vulnerable adults.
* Directly communicating through none verbal media, e.g. Facebook, texting, telephoning etc.
* Full guidance on best practice is outlined in the RFU Safeguarding Toolkit:  
  <http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding/policy-and-guidance/>

1. Garstang Rugby Club manages the changing facilities and arranges for the children or vulnerable adults to be supervised by two adults (DBS Checked) of the appropriate gender using the facilities. Garstang Rugby Club ensures that coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same time, or use the same facilities as children or vulnerable adults.
2. Any events held on Garstang Rugby Club premises must comply with this policy and if appropriate a safeguarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected. Any tours, overseas or domestic trips undertaken by Garstang Rugby Club must comply with the relevant RFU regulations and Guidance relating to Tours:  
   <http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/Governance/ClubSupport/01/30/44/67/Touring_with_children_Neutral.pdf>

Garstang Rugby Clubs philosophy is for young people to enjoy sport, the emphasis is on their enjoyment and development. Though Rugby is a competitive game, and will become more so as the players develop and move onto more senior levels. At a young age children should be allowed to develop and express themselves in a relaxed controlled environment. At Garstang Rugby Club we do not have or condone a “win at all cost” attitude though we do consider it important that young people should be encouraged to develop to their full potential. It is important for young people to develop some of the disciplines needed for the game and learn the values of playing as part of a team. We believe these are fundamentals which will be relevant to a young person within and beyond the scope of playing Rugby. We are committed to fulfilling and supporting the RFU code of conduct and core values of:

Teamwork – Discipline – Sportsmanship – Respect – Enjoyment

Signed:

Robert Cross (Junior Rugby Chairman)

Signed:

Dave Bosson (Club Chairman)

Signed:

Nicola Jameson (Club Safeguarding Officer)