

## **Shrewsbury Lions Safeguarding Policy Statement**

SHREWSBURY LIONS Rugby League Club acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of every child, young person and vulnerable adult who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and the Rugby Football League's requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of these groups are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender assignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background all will have:

- ✓ A positive and enjoyable experience of sport at Shrewsbury Lions in a safe and child centred environment and be protected from poor practise
- ✓ Are protected from abuse whilst participating in rugby football league or outside the activity
- ✓ Every adult involved in the club will undertake this responsibility whether they are a volunteer, match official, helper, coach, club official or medical staff

A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 involved in any club football activity. A vulnerable adult is anyone who may be unable to take care of himself or herself or be unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or exploitation. We subscribe to the [RFL Safeguarding Policy 2024](#) and endorse and accept the Policy Statement contained in that document.

### **Our Policy – what we'll do**

As part of our safeguarding policy, we will:

- ✓ Promote and prioritise the safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable groups
- ✓ Value, listen to and respect children
- ✓ Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
- ✓ Adopt safeguarding best practise through our policies, procedures and codes of conduct for volunteers
- ✓ Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding.
- ✓ Provide appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other concerns relating to children and young people
- ✓ Provide effective management for volunteers by adopting the RFL's safer recruitment practise for volunteers, through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all volunteers and staff know about our policies, procedures and behaviour codes and follow them confidently and competently
- ✓ Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of all incidents or concerns, both lower-level and concerns of abuse, and support to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ✓ Record and store information securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- ✓ Prevent the deployment of unsuitable individuals by adopting the RFL safer recruitment practises with the use of job descriptions/role profiles; and a minimum meet and chat with

prospective volunteers. All volunteers with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete Enhanced DBS disclosures in line with RFL policy

- ✓ Appoint a nominated a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) who will take part in training as defined in the RFL's Safeguarding training. The CWO will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns and will play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members
- ✓ Develop and implement an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- ✓ Share information about safeguarding and good practise with children and parents/guardians in the most appropriate way (including leaflets, posters or newsletters) and one-to-one discussions
- ✓ Shrewsbury Lions supports the RFL's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can whistle blow by contacting the RFL Safeguarding team (see details below).
- ✓ Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and to know that bullying will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO and in the case of serious bullying or adult on child bullying to the RFL Safeguarding Team
- ✓ Uphold the RFL's RESPECT Code for conduct for coaches, players, officials, parent/carers
- ✓ Make sure that children, young people and parents/carers know where to go to for help if they have a concern

### Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or in the following circumstances:

- ✓ Changes in legislation and or/government guidance
- ✓ As required by the local safeguarding partnership, UK Sport and/or home country sports
- ✓ As required by the RFL Safeguarding Team
- ✓ As a result of any significant changes or event

This policy was last reviewed on ...24/04/24.....

Signed ...Alex Smith / Lois Martin.....

### Contact details

#### **Our Club Welfare Officer**

Lois Martin

07971156187

lois.mlois22@gmail.com

### **Local Safeguarding Partnership (LSP)**

If you know of someone at risk of any form of abuse, please report this by contacting

- Shrewsbury - [Family Connect](#) - Contacting Family Connect on 01743254400 from 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday or shropshireFIS@shropshire.gov.uk
- Contacting the Emergency Duty Team on 03456789040 after 5pm, Monday to Friday, and 24 hours during weekends and Bank Holidays.
- Shropshire – [Children's Services](#)
- [Local Safeguarding Partnership](#) finder

**In a safeguarding emergency, where a young person is at immediate risk of harm, call 999**

### **Further support can be found:**

The NSPCC Child Protection **24-hour Helpline 0808 800 5000**

Contacting the [RFL Safeguarding Team](#) by emailing to [safeguarding@rfl.uk.com](mailto:safeguarding@rfl.uk.com) or by completing a RFL reporting a [concern form](#)

General information can be found

<https://www.rugby-league.com/governance/safeguarding>