



Child Protection Policy

We in NewForge Taggers Tag RFC as the Junior Section of PSNI Rugby Football Club are committed to good practice which protects young people from harm. Members, coaches, officials and voluntary helpers in Newforge Taggers accept and recognise their responsibility under the Children (NI) Order 1995 to provide an environment which promotes the safety of children and young adults at all times. In order to safeguard the young people in our care we will:

1. Adopt and implement the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland and Age Grade Rugby Code of Ethics IRFU as an integral part of our policy on children in the club.
2. Have a Constitution approved and adopted by club members at an AGM or EGM.
3. Consult with parents, guardians, carers and the young people when relevant, to ensure the safe and efficient running of the club.
4. Ensure that the club management committee is elected or endorsed by registered club members at each AGM.
5. Clearly define the role of committee members, coaches and parents/guardians within the club.
6. Adopt and consistently apply a safe and clearly defined method of recruiting and selecting Coaches and volunteers
7. Submit all members of committee, coaches and volunteers for POCVA clearance through the IRFU (UlsterBranch)
8. Appoint at least one Children's Officer, who has attended specific Children's Officer Training, as outlined in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland.
9. Designate CPO to act as liaison with the statutory authorities in relation to the reporting of allegations or suspicions of child abuse. Any such reports will be made according to the procedures outlined in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland
10. Ensure best practice throughout the club by disseminating our Code of Conduct, including the disciplinary, complaints and appeals procedure in operation within the club,

to all our members. The club's Code of Conduct will also be posted on any facilities used by the club.

11. Have in place procedures for dealing with a concern or complaint made to the statutory authorities against a committee member or sports leader or other members of our club. Any sports leader who is the subject of an allegation, which has been reported to the statutory authorities, will stand aside while the matter is being examined as a matter of course. Such action is not considered as an admission of guilt but as a procedure to be followed to allow an investigation of the allegation to take place. He/she will be invited to resume full duties immediately if he/she is vindicated.
12. Ensure that relevant coaches report to the club's management committee on a regular basis.
13. Encourage regular turnover of committee membership, while ensuring continuity and experience.
14. Develop effective procedures for responding to and recording accidents.
15. Ensure that any unusual activity (high rate of drop out/transfers etc) is checked out and reported by the club chairperson/children's officer to the Governing Body of the sport.
16. Ensure that all club members are given adequate notice of AGMs and other meetings.
17. Ensure that all minutes of all meetings (AGMs/EGMs/Committee) are recorded and safely filed.
18. Create a forum to ensure that opinions of the young people are listened to.
19. Ensure all adults involved in the club have the opportunity to attend child protection awareness training.

References

1. Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland.
2. The Children (NI) Order 1995.
3. Age Grade Rugby, Code of Ethics, IRFU

‘How Parents/Guardians Can Help’

Newforge Taggers Tag Rugby Football Club believes that parents play a very important role in their child’s development in sport. To that end, the club would ask parents to contribute to the Club and their child’s participation in sport. In particular the club expects all parents to:

1. Encourage but not force an unwilling child to participate in sport or in the club.
2. Recognise that children’s enjoyment in sport and as a member of this club is paramount.
3. Emphasise enjoyment and fun and praise and reinforce effort and improvement.
4. Promote and teach fair play by setting a good example.
5. Teach their child that effort and teamwork are as important as winning.
6. Help their child to set realistic goals, improve their skills and develop a positive sporting attitude.
7. Never ridicule or shout at any child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
8. Acknowledge and applaud good play by all players including opposing players. Parents/guardians should set an example by being friendly towards the opposing team, its supporters and parents.
9. Publicly accept an official’s judgement and never question their honesty.
10. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children’s sporting activities.
11. Express any concerns about their child or the club, to the nominated officer.
12. Recognise the importance and value of coaches and others within the club who give their time, expertise and resources to provide opportunities for young people.
13. Offer whatever assistance they can to the running of the club and support the club and their child/young Adult where possible ie by providing transport to training/competitions; watching matches and training sessions; making sure that their child has appropriate clothing and equipment; supporting fund raising and social events.

Signed _____ Chairman

_____ Secretary

Date _____