Rugby Safe



Wells RFC

Rugby Safe

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to highlight and communicate the commitment that Wells RFC takes in promoting the RFU's overarching player safety and wellbeing programme, where player safety is at the heart of the game and covering how the game should be played and managed to ensure that rugby is as safe as possible.

Scope

The following procedures and elements apply to all club sections, coaches and other volunteers at the club who are required to familiarise themselves with the guidelines and to apply them. Further guidance on this subject can be found on https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/playing/player-welfare-rugby-safe

Rationale

RFU Regulation 9 (Player Safety) sets out responsibilities and requirements of all clubs organising any rugby union activity. The information for these requirements to be implemented at club level is set out in a programme that offers guidance, tools and resources. The RFU offers training courses and development opportunities for coaches, match officials and other volunteers to increase awareness of the games key safety elements.

RFU Reportable Injuries

Wells RFC will notify the RFU of all injuries that qualify as a reportable injury or event. This is defined as..

• An injury which results in the player being admitted to a hospital (this does not include those that attend an A&E department and are allowed home from there)

• A death which occurs during or within 6 hours of a game finishing

• An injury that occurs due to the use of artificial pitches or equipment or player clothing Club

Rugby Safe Lead (RSL)

For Wells RFC to deliver RugbySafe requirements, it has appointed a Lead member whose duties will include delivery of the safety programme at all levels of club rugby. These duties will include:

• Recording of all incidents / accidents to players (mini's, juniors and senior sides) on the RFU produced "Incident / Injury Report Form" through the PROActive website. Any witness statements will need to be taken and be confined to facts and not opinion, hearsay or any apportion of blame. They need to be signed and dated by the witness

making them. These records are to be retained in accordance with the club's policy on "Data Protection Policy & GDPR"

• Any such reportable injury must be reported to the RFU Injury Reporting Helpline 0800 298 0102 or by email to SportsInjuriesAdmin@rfu.com as soon as the seriousness of the players conditioned is confirmed and certainly within 48 hours of the game or training session.

• Ensure all new coaches/first aiders & relevant volunteers have or require the necessary level of coaching training which is to include the minimum qualification of "Emergency First Aider at Work (EFAW) or Emergency First Aid in Rugby (EFARU)

• To promote the need for all coaches to complete the Headcase Concussion Module.

• To distribute a copy of the "Adult Concussion Management Guidelines" to the parents / partners of such injured players

• To ensure appropriate pitch-side first aid care provision is in place for all training and scheduled games.

• To maintain a process for collecting and safely storing a players next of kin details.

Club Coaches

• All club coaches are responsible in informing the RugbySafe Lead of all rugby accidents. This will include any suspected concussion injuries and the process required to ensure that such players have followed the guidance within the "Adult Concussion Management Guidelines" - reporting should be made using PROActive Reporting system online.

• These guidelines and in particular, the "Graduated Return To Play" programme are to be known to the parents / partners of such an injured player to manage the return of that player to rugby. More advice can be obtained by email rugbysafe@rfu.com

• The injured player involved in a concussion issue is to be interviewed by the relevant coach / manager to determine if that player is suitably fit to return to rugby.

• To be aware of the provision of an "Automated External Defibrillator" (AED) situated on the front of the clubhouse and behind the bar.

External Reference's

Information on first aid at work is available on the first aid web pages of HSE's www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/index.htm.

More detailed practical guidance on complying with first-aid duties is available in First aid at work. The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981. Approved Code of Practice and guidance L74 HSE Books 2009 ISBN 978 0 7176 6260 9.

"Guidance on First Aid and Immediate Care Provision to players in RFU community clubs " (RFU publications)

www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/

www.rfu.com/ManagingRugby/FirstAid

Reviewed September 2025