**Orkney Rugby Football Club Child Protection Policy**

Orkney Rugby Football Club is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in its care. It recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. For the purposes of this policy and associated procedures a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years.

This document outlines Orkney Rugby Football Clubs commitment to protecting children.

Orkney Rugby Football Club acknowledges and recognise the following principles

* The responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of all children in Orkney from harm.
* That all children have the right to participate in rugby union in a safe, enjoyable and positive environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect or poor practice.
* That it adheres to the Scottish Rugby Child Protection Policy and the procedures, guidelines, and practices contained in that document and any successor policy.
* That all children have the right to expect that their participation in rugby union will be supported and delivered by suitably recruited, vetted and managed staff, whether they are volunteering or officiating.

Orkney Rugby Football Club will

* Promote the health and welfare of children by providing opportunities for them to take part in rugby safely.
* Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children.
* Take all allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
* Follow Scottish Rugby guidelines and procedures for reporting concerns by providing all sections of Orkney RFC with “reporting a concern” forms.
* Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and protect them from abuse.
* Recruit, train, support and supervise its staff, members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves.
* Follow guidance provided by Scottish Rugby on; Managing Challenging, First aid and treatment of injuries, overnight trips, sexual activity and grooming and physical contact
* Ensure that all members who undertake regulated work must be a member of the PVG Scheme with a Scheme Record Update if necessary, in line with Scottish Rugby’s Child Protection Policy.
* Acknowledge the Disclosure Scotland referrals process and agree to action a referral if required.
* Ensure that any tours, oversees or domestic must comply with the relevant Scottish Rugby Regulations and Guidance relating to tours.
* Provide each section of Orkney RFC with a Child Protection folder with all appropriate information, reporting forms, guidance information and policies and procedures.

**Child Protection Officer**

Orkney Rugby Football Club will appoint a Child Protection Officer (CPO) at the club. Their details will be available within the clubhouse and on the club website. The CPO will undergo Child Protection training as directed by Scottish Rugby. The Orkney Rugby Football Club CPO is Charlene Nicol, and they agree to be contacted with any concerns regarding child protection and will take appropriate action.

**Review**

This Policy will be reviewed:

* In accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children or following any changes within Orkney Rugby Football Club
* Following any issues or concerns raised about the protection of children within the Orkney Rugby Football Club
* In all other circumstances, at least every three years.