


A photograph of a young boy in a yellow and black rugby jersey holding a rugby ball. He is looking down at the ball. In the background, other players in red and black jerseys are visible, along with a large explosion of red and black confetti. The image is part of a promotional graphic for the RFL Guide for Parents & Carers.

**RFL GUIDE
FOR PARENTS
& CARERS**

RUGBY LEAGUE. It's a whole different ballgame®

 **RFL**

www.rfl.uk.com



What to expect from your child's local club or other rugby league organisation & what is expected from your child & you as their parent or carer...

What can your child expect from playing rugby league?

- A safe, friendly and enjoyable environment for all children and young people whether training or playing for a local club at whatever level.
- Have fun and sense of achievement from taking up a new sport
- Encourage a healthy lifestyle
- Develop your child's skills and qualities such as leadership, confidence & self esteem.

How do I know my child will be treated fairly?

The RFL and clubs have a range of policies and procedures in place that will ensure your child is treated with the respect they deserve. On the rare occasion that any problems are identified you can be assured that the RFL and club take any allegations of abuse or poor practice seriously and will respond appropriately.

All children and young people will be treated with dignity, respect, sensitivity and fairness whatever their race, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social or cultural background.

The RFL will not tolerate racist, sexist or homophobic abuse or harassment of any type in the game from players or staff involved in the game.

How do I know my child will be treated fairly?

continued...

All RFL clubs have adopted an Anti Bullying Policy - a copy should be displayed at your club and is available on the RFL Website www.rfl.uk.com. Bullying by other players, or staff will not be tolerated under any circumstances and if you feel your child is being bullied by another child, other parents or member of staff notify your club welfare officer immediately and they will ensure the matter is dealt with promptly and effectively.

The RFL and clubs are also committed to meeting the individual needs of your child if your child has any disabilities, religious, dietary or any other requirements please inform the club coaches so that their needs can be accommodated appropriately

The club will have a Safeguarding Policy (child protection) which outlines the club's responsibilities in the area of Safeguarding. This will include procedures for dealing with any abuse, disclosure or poor practice. The club has a responsibility to act on any allegations of abuse or poor practice. If you have a concern about any issue involving the welfare of your child or any other child at the club you should first bring the matter to the attention of the Club Welfare Officer (CWO).

If the Club Welfare Officer cannot or has not dealt with your concern or the concern is about the CWO then contact the RFL Safeguarding Team on 0844 477 7113 option 6 or at safeguarding@rfl.uk.com.

You can also contact the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000

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Where can I get more information about these policies?

Full versions of all policies mentioned in this leaflet are available on the RFL Website www.rfl.uk.com under the In League Together banner.

Above all the welfare of your child is paramount.

My child has decided he/she wants to play rugby league, what do we do now?

- Your child will be asked to complete a registration form.
- As parent/guardian you will be asked to sign this form.
- You must also provide two photos of your child that will then be put onto a plastic card which must be shown at each game or they will NOT be allowed to play.
- Complete a personal details form asking you for emergency contacts, medical history allergies, dietary requirements etc.
- Sign a consent form for your child to be photographed or videoed.

Who will my child come into contact with at the club, what is their role & what qualifications & experience should they have?

Coaches

- Coaches should hold the UKCC Level 2 qualification. Coaches who do not hold the UKCC Level 2, should be working towards the qualification or hold a UKCC Level 1 qualification as a minimum.
- The RFL recommends that 1:10 is an appropriate ratio of coaches to players.
- All coaches should have attended a SCUUK Safeguarding & Protecting Children course. (child protection)
- All staff working directly with children should have been Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checked and cleared by the RFL to work with children.
- Clubs should carry out ongoing monitoring of all coaches in their role to ensure they maintain the high standards of coaching set by the RFL.





Volunteers

All volunteers with frequent contact with children should have been Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checked and cleared by the RFL to work with children.

Club Welfare Officers

The Club should have a Club Welfare Officer or designated person who is the first point of contact if you have any concerns about your child's safety or issues of bullying. The Club Welfare Officer should have been CRB checked and cleared by the RFL to work with children and should have undergone a training programme as recommended by the RFL.

What about health & safety?

All staff involved with rugby league are committed to ensuring your child can participate fully in the game whilst reducing the risks of injury to themselves or others. Each club should have considered the potential risks and taken steps to minimise them in order to reduce the chance of accident or injury.

It is also vital that your child listens to and responds to any instructions given by coaches and match officials.

Even if all precautions are taken as with most sports injuries do sometimes occur and you should ensure that emergency contact lists are kept up to date.

Each club has insurance in case of accident. Personal insurance is also available, but is not provided or paid for by the club. Contact your insurance company for more information.

What practical things can I do to ensure my child gets the most out of playing rugby league?

It would help if you as a parent or carer could ensure your child has

- Their photo ID card
- The right kit
- A suitable drink if required
- Sun cream in hot weather
- Suitable clothing in adverse weather
- Any medication he or she may require

It would help if parents or carers could be aware of the following

- Ask questions to make sure that training and matches are safe and child friendly
- Be aware of the RESPECT policy and act in accordance with it
- Not to send their child to training or a match if they are not fit and well enough to play or train
- Keep the club up to date with any details of medical conditions or medication
- Inform the club of any disabilities or individuals needs that your child has
- Ensure the club has your emergency contact details
- Drop off and pick up your child at the correct times as advised by the club
- Chat to your child about the club and the game to make sure they are enjoying it
- Be aware of how to report a concern about poor practice or possible abuse

Children are not allowed to smoke or drink alcohol on club premises and you should support the club in this policy.

Can I get involved in Rugby league?

Clubs would be delighted to welcome parents and carers and there are a range of opportunities for getting involved as a volunteer, or a career within Rugby league.

visit www.therfluk.co.uk/community





RESPECT

All RFL clubs have signed up to the RFL's RESPECT policy and you should be given a copy of this which contains more information about the rights and responsibilities of all involved in the game of Rugby League. As a parent and/or spectator you have the responsibility to abide by the RESPECT Code of Conduct

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in Rugby League
- Remember that children participate in Rugby League for their own enjoyment not yours
- Understand that rugby league is part of a total life experience, and the benefits of involvement go far beyond the final score of a game
- Condemn all violent or illegal acts, whether they are by players, coaches, officials, parents or spectators
- Respect the match official's decisions - don't complain or argue about decisions during or after a game
- Behave! Unsporting language, harassment or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated
- Encourage players to play by the rules and to respect opposition players and officials
- Never ridicule or scorn a player for making a mistake - respect their efforts
- Participate in positive cheering that encourages all the players in the team; do not engage in any jeering that taunts or intimidates opponents, their fans or officials
- At all times follow the directions of the Ground Manager and/or other match day staff
- Never arrive at a ground under the influence of alcohol, never bring alcohol to a game and only drink alcohol if it is available at the ground, in the designated licensed area

Welcome to Rugby league we hope you and your child have many years of enjoyment playing, watching and supporting rugby league

