

Declaration of Intent for Coaches/Volunteers

This Declaration of Intent is for coaches, volunteers and relevant personnel working with young people and/or vulnerable adults. Coaches, volunteers and relevant personnel should also familiarise themselves with IRFU's Safeguarding Policy and agree to abide by its terms, <https://www.irishrugby.ie/playing-the-game/spirit-of-rugby/safeguarding/safeguarding-policy/>

In rugby, I agree that I should

Be positive during sessions and competitions, praise and encourage effort as well as results

Put welfare of Player first, strike a balance between this and winning and/or results, player needs are paramount. Follow professional medical advice in determining when an injured player is ready to play again

Encourage fair play and treat Players equally

Recognise developmental needs, ensuring activities are appropriate for the individual

Be reasonable in your demands on the players' time, energy and enthusiasm

Plan and prepare appropriately

Attend training and adhere to the guidelines in the IRFU Safeguarding Policy

Involve parents where possible and inform parents when problems arise

Keep a brief record of injury(s) and action taken and/or keep a brief record of

problem/action/outcomes, if behavioural problems arise and discuss any such issues with the Club Welfare Officer

Report any concerns to the Club Welfare Officer in accordance with confidentiality

Where possible I will avoid:

Spending excessive amounts of time with Players away from others

Taking sessions alone, without adequate supervision and unsighted

Constant communication with individual players by mobile phone or email or social media forums – communication will be for the purpose of team administration

Taking players on journeys alone in my car without parental permission

I understand that I should not:

Use any form of physical punishment or physical force on a Player, or ridicule or intimidate Players in any way

Exert undue influence over any players in order to obtain personal benefit or reward

Neglect my 'position of trust' irrespective of age of consent

Engage in rough physical games, sexually provocative games or allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind, and /or make sexually suggestive comments about, or to a player. This includes innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms

Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adult

Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis, massage, etc.) in the training of Players for which I am not appointed to or trained for

Self-Declaration - I agree that

I will abide by the guidelines contained in the IRFU Safeguarding Policy

I have not been asked to leave a sporting organisation or organisation while working with young people and/or vulnerable adults

There is no reason why I should not be working with young people and vulnerable adults and/or in a regulated activity

I have not been convicted of a criminal offence or been the subject of a caution; a Bound Over Order; or am not at present the subject of criminal investigations

Where I cannot agree to all statements above, I will discuss the relevant details with the Club or Branch Welfare Officer to allow an appropriate risk assessment to be made relevant to my role.

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