



Safeguarding Policy & Statement

Committee Member Responsible: Welfare Coordinator

Approved By: BRL Management Committee

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Contents

Safeguarding Policy	2
1. Policy Statement.....	2
2. Definitions.....	2
3. Safeguarding Responsibilities.....	3
3.1 Welfare Coordinator (Designated Safeguarding Lead – DSL)	3
3.2 Team Welfare Officers	3
4. Recognising and Reporting Concerns.....	3
4.1 Low-Level Concerns	3
4.2 High-Risk Concerns	3
5. Confidentiality and Record-Keeping.....	4
6. Safer Recruitment.....	4
7. Code of Conduct	4
8. Managing Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers.....	4
9. Whistleblowing Policy	5
10. Review and Monitoring.....	5
Bury Rounders League Safeguarding Statement.....	6

Safeguarding Policy

(For Children and Vulnerable Adults)

1. Policy Statement

Bury Rounders League is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults in accordance with UK safeguarding legislation. This policy outlines our procedures to ensure the safety of all participants.

We comply with the following legislation and guidance:

- **Children Act 1989 & 2004** – Legal duty to protect and promote children's welfare.
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018, updated 2023)** – Statutory guidance on safeguarding responsibilities.
- **The Care Act 2014** – Protection and safeguarding of vulnerable adults.
- **Keeping Children Safe in Sport (NSPCC & CPSU)** – Best practices for safeguarding in sports.
- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006** – Regulations on working with vulnerable groups.
- **Equality Act 2010** – Protection from discrimination.
- **Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR)** – Secure handling of safeguarding records.
- **Serious Crime Act 2015 (Mandatory Reporting of FGM)** – Legal duty to report female genital mutilation.

2. Definitions

2.1 Safeguarding – Protecting a child or vulnerable adult from abuse, neglect, or harm, and ensuring they grow up with safe and effective care.

2.2 Child – Any person under the age of 18.

2.3 Vulnerable Adult – A person aged 18 or over who is unable to protect themselves from abuse, neglect, or exploitation due to disability, mental health issues, or other circumstances.

2.4 Abuse – Includes:

- **Physical abuse** – Deliberate harm (e.g., hitting, shaking, burning).
- **Emotional abuse** – Persistent harm to emotional development (e.g., bullying, threats).
- **Sexual abuse** – Forcing or enticing participation in sexual activities.
- **Neglect** – Failure to meet basic needs (e.g., food, shelter, medical care).

3. Safeguarding Responsibilities

3.1 Welfare Coordinator (Designated Safeguarding Lead – DSL)

The **Welfare Coordinator** is responsible for:

- **Overseeing safeguarding across the league.**
- Managing **high-risk safeguarding concerns.**
- **Triaging and escalating** concerns to external agencies.
- Ensuring the league complies with **safeguarding legislation.**
- **Supporting and advising team Welfare Officers.**

3.2 Team Welfare Officers

Each team must appoint a **Welfare Officer**, trained to **Safeguarding Level 1**, who:

- Acts as the first **point of contact** for safeguarding within the team.
- Manages **low-level concerns.**
- Reports all concerns to the **Welfare Coordinator.**
- Promotes safeguarding awareness within the team.

4. Recognising and Reporting Concerns

4.1 Low-Level Concerns

A **low-level concern** does not pose immediate harm but may indicate a safeguarding issue if left unaddressed. Examples include:

- **Inappropriate behavior** (e.g., inappropriate language).
- **Concerns about a participant's well-being.**
- **Minor breaches of safeguarding protocols.**

Reporting Process:

1. The **Team Welfare Officer** records the concern on the **Safeguarding Concern Form.**
2. The concern is reported to the **Welfare Coordinator.**
3. The **Coordinator assesses the concern** and determines the next steps.

4.2 High-Risk Concerns

A **high-risk concern** involves serious risk, including:

- **Suspected or disclosed abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, neglect).**
- **A participant in immediate danger.**

Reporting Process:

1. **Immediate risk?** Call **999** or report to **Children's Social Services.**
2. **Report to the Welfare Coordinator immediately.**
3. The **Coordinator assesses and refers the case to external agencies**, such as:

- **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** (for allegations involving staff/volunteers).
 - **Children's Social Care or Adult Safeguarding Team.**
 - **NSPCC Helpline (0808 800 5000).**
4. All actions are **documented securely**.

5. Confidentiality and Record-Keeping

- All safeguarding concerns are **documented and stored securely** in line with the **Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR)**.
- Information is shared **only on a need-to-know basis** with relevant safeguarding professionals.
- **Records must be factual**, avoiding personal opinions.

6. Safer Recruitment

- **The Welfare Coordinator (DSL)** must have an Enhanced DBS Check due to their role in handling high-risk safeguarding concerns.
- **Team Welfare Officers** do not require a DBS Check, as parents and trusted adults are always present.
- **All Welfare Officers** must complete **Safeguarding Level 1** training before taking on the role.
- **All volunteers and staff working directly with children or vulnerable adults must be aware of safeguarding policies and adhere to the league's code of conduct.**
- References and background checks may be obtained for volunteers or staff in key roles.

7. Code of Conduct

All players, coaches, and volunteers must:

- **Prioritise safety and well-being** of children and vulnerable adults.
- **Report all safeguarding concerns** immediately.
- **Maintain appropriate boundaries** (e.g., no one-on-one meetings in private spaces).
- **Avoid inappropriate physical contact.**
- **Uphold equality and inclusion.**

8. Managing Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers

- Allegations must be reported to the **Welfare Coordinator** immediately.
- If the allegation involves a **staff member or volunteer**, the Coordinator will:
 - **Inform the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).**
 - **Suspend the individual (if necessary) while the case is investigated.**
 - **Follow disciplinary procedures** if required.

9. Whistleblowing Policy

- Individuals can **report safeguarding concerns without fear of retaliation.**
- Reports can be made confidentially to the **Welfare Coordinator** or external bodies:
 - **NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line: 0800 028 0285.**

10. Review and Monitoring

- This policy will be **reviewed annually** and updated in line with safeguarding legislation.
- **Regular safeguarding audits** will ensure compliance.

For any safeguarding concerns, contact the **Bury Rounders League Welfare Coordinator** immediately.

Bury Rounders League Safeguarding Statement

Bury Rounders League is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants, particularly children and vulnerable adults. We believe that everyone has the right to take part in sport in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment, free from abuse, neglect, and harm.

We have a clear safeguarding structure in place:

- A **Welfare Coordinator (Designated Safeguarding Lead - DSL)** oversees all safeguarding matters and handles high-risk concerns.
- Each team has a **Welfare Officer trained to Safeguarding Level 1**, responsible for managing low-level concerns and reporting them to the Coordinator.
- We follow strict safeguarding procedures in line with UK legislation, including the **Children Act 1989 & 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018, updated 2023)**, and **The Care Act 2014**.
- Our policies cover **safer recruitment, reporting procedures, confidentiality, and managing safeguarding concerns effectively**.

We encourage all players, parents, coaches, and volunteers to be vigilant and report any concerns. Safeguarding is **everyone's responsibility**, and by working together, we can create a safe and enjoyable environment for all.

For any safeguarding concerns, please contact the **Bury Rounders League Welfare Coordinator**.