

Annan Rugby Safeguarding Policy for Vulnerable Adults – 2025

Commitment to Safeguarding Adults at Risk

Annan Rugby is committed to promoting the rights, wellbeing, and safety of vulnerable adults involved in any aspect of club activity. We aim to ensure that all adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or social background, can enjoy rugby in a safe and supportive environment.

We recognise our duty to respond appropriately to any concerns regarding potential abuse, exploitation, or neglect of vulnerable adults and to take all concerns seriously.

Definition of a Vulnerable Adult

A "vulnerable adult" (also referred to as an "adult at risk") is defined under the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 as someone aged 16 or over who:

- Is unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights, or other interests,
- Is at risk of harm, and
- Because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness, or physical or mental infirmity, is more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

Policy Adoption and Framework

Annan Rugby adopts and adheres to Scottish Rugby's Safeguarding Adults Policy, its procedures, guidance, and training requirements. We follow the principles of:

- Empowerment – supporting informed decision-making.
- Prevention – taking action before harm occurs.
- Proportionality – responding appropriately to the level of risk.
- Protection – offering support to those in greatest need.
- Partnership – working with others to protect.
- Accountability – transparency in safeguarding practice.

[Scottish Rugby Safeguarding Information](#)

Club Safeguarding Officer (Adult Protection Lead)

The club's designated safeguarding lead for adults is:

Gary Coupland
Email: CPO@AnnanRFC.com
Phone: 07711 720900

Their details will be displayed at the clubhouse and on the club website.

Recognising and Responding to Concerns

Annan Rugby recognises that abuse of adults may include:

- Physical, emotional or psychological abuse
- Financial or material exploitation
- Sexual abuse

- Neglect or acts of omission
- Discriminatory or institutional abuse
- Self-neglect

Anyone involved with the club who suspects abuse or poor practice involving a vulnerable adult must:

- Report the concern to the Club Safeguarding Officer
- Complete a Safeguarding Concern Form
- Refer serious cases to Police Scotland or Social Work if someone is at immediate risk

Email for external reporting: safeguarding@sru.org.uk

Safer Recruitment and PVG

All individuals engaged in regulated work with vulnerable adults (e.g. certain coaching, supervising or supporting roles) must:

- Be a member of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme for working with protected adults
- Be safely recruited and vetted in accordance with Disclosure Scotland guidance

PVG Administrator:

Gary Coupland

PVG@AnnanRFC.com

[More on PVG Scheme](#)

Confidentiality and Consent

Wherever possible, consent will be obtained from the adult before sharing safeguarding concerns. However, if an individual lacks capacity or is at immediate risk of harm, the club may share concerns without consent in line with the Adult Support and Protection Act 2007.

All information will be handled sensitively, and only shared on a need-to-know basis.

Training and Awareness

All individuals involved in working with adults at risk will be required to complete:

- Scottish Rugby's Safeguarding Adults Training or equivalent recognised programme
- Regular refresher training as advised by the SRU or Annan Rugby Safeguarding Officer

Reporting and Referrals

Annan Rugby will ensure:

- All concerns are recorded and stored securely
- Referrals are made to external agencies if necessary
- The adult is involved in decisions as far as they are able
- Actions are documented and followed up

Review and Monitoring

This policy will be:

- Reviewed annually or following a safeguarding incident
- Updated to comply with changes in legislation, guidance, or Scottish Rugby requirements