

Annan Rugby Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy 2026

Commitment to Safeguarding

Annan Rugby is fully committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people involved in our club activities. We acknowledge our responsibility to promote and protect their welfare from all forms of harm, abuse, and poor practice. We believe every child has the right to enjoy rugby union in a safe, inclusive, supportive, and positive environment, free from abuse, discrimination or harm.

Policy Adoption and Alignment

Annan Rugby adheres to the Scottish Rugby Union's (SRU) Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy, procedures, and guidance, including any future updates or successor documents.

This policy is publicly available at: scottishrugby.org/safeguarding

Club Safeguarding Officer (Formally known as Child Protection Officer)

Annan Rugby has appointed a Child Safeguarding Officer (CSO) to act as the key point of contact for safeguarding and child protection concerns within the club.

CSO Details:

Gary Coupland

Email: CSO@AnnanRFC.com

Phone: 07711 720900

- The CSO has completed appropriate safeguarding training as required by Scottish Rugby.
- Their contact details will be publicly displayed in the clubhouse and on the club website.
- Any child protection or welfare concerns should be directed to the CPO in the first instance.

Reporting Concerns

Annan Rugby is committed to ensuring that any allegations, concerns, or suspicions of, abuse, neglect, harm, or poor practice are taken seriously and acted upon promptly, fairly, and in line with SRU procedures.

If there is a concern about a child's wellbeing:

- Complete a Safeguarding Concern Form and submit it to the Club CPO and the SRU Lead Safeguarding Officer.
- Contact SRU Safeguarding: safeguarding@sru.org.uk

Download Safeguarding Concern Form

Safer Recruitment and PVG Scheme Annan Rugby ensures that all individuals undertaking regulated work with children are safely

recruited, appropriately vetted, and registered with the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.

- PVG checks are coordinated by the Club's PVG Administrator (see below).
- Updates and renewals are managed as required under Disclosure Scotland guidelines.
- Annan Rugby recognises and complies with the Disclosure Scotland referral process if there are concerns about the suitability of an individual to work with children.

PVG Administrator:

Gary Coupland

Email: PVG@AnnanRFC.com

More on PVG Scheme: www.mygov.scot/pvg-scheme

Tours and Events

All overnight trips, tours (domestic and international), and away fixtures involving children and young people will fully comply with Scottish Rugby Regulations and Guidance on tours and safeguarding procedures, including obtaining parental consent and having appropriate supervision ratios.

Rights and Responsibilities

- Children and young people have the right to be heard, respected, and protected at all times.
- All adults involved in the club (coaches, volunteers, parents, supporters) have a responsibility to act on concerns and to follow the club's safeguarding procedures.
- All club members will be made aware of the safeguarding policy and their role in keeping children safe.

Review and Training

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to changes in legislation, guidance, or following a safeguarding incident.

All individuals in regulated roles must:

- Complete Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport (CWPS) training as required by the SRU
- Undertake regular refreshers as advised by Scottish Rugby