

WHEN TO INVOLVE THE POLICE

This guidance is aimed at Club Safeguarding Officers and their clubs to help support them during serious safeguarding concerns which may require police involvement.

It is vital that any Club Safeguarding Officer who does feel that a particular incident warrants a police referral, once this referral has been made, no matter the outcome, contacts the RFU Safeguarding Team and informs them of the incident and their subsequent actions. You can do this by using the referral form or by emailing safeguarding@rfu.com.

This guidance document outlines the factors that clubs should consider when deciding to involve the police and the subsequent actions they should then take.

DECIDING TO INVOLVE THE POLICE

When an incident has occurred, where a crime may or may not have been committed, the club must consider whether to involve the police. The RFU Safeguarding Policy and the RFU sharing concerns flowchart gives guidance on this decision-making process and the preferred way of dealing with these incidents.

When making this decision, clubs must consider whether:

- A child has been harmed or suffered abuse
- Something happened that significantly increased the likelihood of a child being harmed or abused
- It has become apparent that a child has been harmed, or suffered abuse, and this information has been withheld

If you have exhausted all possible guidance, and are still unsure, don't be afraid to call the non-emergency line, 101, for advice from the police.

All concerns, discussions, decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions should be recorded in writing. If in doubt about recording requirements, clubs should refer to Receiving Concerns Guidance and if clubs are still unsure, contact the RFU Safeguarding Team. Guidance can also be found in the Recording Concerns section of the RFU Safeguarding Children Policy.

In the event of an emergency, dial 999. This should be used if:

- There is a danger to life
- There is risk of serious injury
- A serious crime is in progress, or about to happen

Please note, that it does not have to be the Club Safeguarding Officer who makes the call to the police. Whoever can call first, or is on the scene, should make the call to prevent any time being wasted.

CONSIDERATIONS

When deciding to involve the police, clubs should ensure they put the needs of the child before anything else. Clubs should refrain from trying to deal with incidents in-house, especially when clubs are unsure if a crime or abuse has occurred. The most important thing is that advice is sought from an early stage and the club ensures open and prompt communication with the police, as well as the RFU's Safeguarding Team.

The child in any incident should be supported and protected as a priority. It is also extremely important to ensure that if any harm to the child has occurred, the child's parents/guardians are notified of this immediately, unless this would place the child at risk of further harm. If the allegation or incident involves the child's parents/guardians, then take advice from statutory agencies or the RFU Safeguarding Team at the earliest opportunity.

Individuals suspected of being the offender will also need support from the club, particularly if any possible investigation or sanction following the incident will affect their position in the club or their professional work. The RFU's Information for those who have had a concern raised against them contains guidance on this.

The RFU Safeguarding Team should be informed of all referrals made to the police or local authorities.

CONTACT US

SAFEGUARDING@RFU.COM

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