

Canvey Island Rugby Union Football Club

Drinking Games in Junior Teams Policy



Some junior teams at clubs in Essex are still indulging in drinking games at the end of matches. It is worrying that any club feels it is an acceptable activity to engage in. It can lead to a child feeling bullied/victimised and forced to engage against their will.

Additionally, it is a step towards an unhealthy link to binge drinking (which as an adult could relate to alcohol).

RFU, CB & Canvey Island RUFC feel it is an unacceptable practice to encourage drinking games involving young players be it at a club or on tour.

The substitution of alcohol with soft drinks does not make this practice acceptable as it continues to promote and endorse a drinking culture and it is against the RFU's core values and best practice guidance.

As adults working with children, club volunteers have a moral duty to maintain high standards of care and to act as role models. Encouraging these activities is falling very short of that expectation. See below extract from the RFU Safeguarding Policy.

Alcohol

It is important that all rugby clubs' management committees take considered, positive action to ensure that they are responsible licensees.

It is against the law to:

- ❖ Sell alcohol to someone under 18
- ❖ For an adult to buy or attempt to buy alcohol on behalf of someone under 18
- ❖ For someone under 18 to buy alcohol, attempt to buy alcohol or to be sold alcohol
- ❖ For someone under 18 to drink alcohol in licensed premises, with one exception - 16 and 17year olds accompanied by an adult can drink but not buy beer, wine and cider with a table meal
- ❖ For an adult to buy alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on licensed premises, except as above

At training sessions and games for children, adults' drinking habits may affect both children's attitude to alcohol and their emotional well-being.

As role models' adults should avoid excessive drinking in their presence.

The unexpected can always happen; there should always be adults who abstain from drinking alcohol to deal with any emergencies and to manage the safety and welfare of children.

