

Cranbrook Rugby Football Club



3.4 DUTY OF CARE POLICY

Everyone involved in coaching and or administration of rugby must understand the Duty of Care they have to those in their charge. It is important that all coaches, team managers and administrators adhere to all RFU rules, directives, regulations as well as **CRFC's** rules, directives and policies

This is especially so when working with children and young people (those under 18 years of age). We must all pay close regard to health and safety issues and carry out necessary risk assessments particularly where there is contact.

The wording of the new Continuum Directive has removed many of the inconsistencies that made it difficult for both Clubs and Constituent Bodies (CBs) to administer mini/midi rugby. Likewise the IRB 'The Laws of the Game of Rugby Union Football,

It is very important that these directives, rules are strictly adhered to.

In the case of any injury claims all insurers inevitably require evidence that Clubs have been complying with any relevant regulations/directives issued by the governing body of that sport. Also, in this litigious age, should an injury occur, for example, to an U7 player playing competitive contact rugby matches or U14 players lifting in the line out, the referee, coaches and Club could all become liable for claims of negligence.

You must not allow any action, either in training or playing, that is contrary to any RFU rule, directive or regulation or any CRFC rule, directive or policy relevant to any specific age group(s).

The Continuum Directive makes it clear that CBs now have the power to oversee the administration of mini/midi and youth rugby and that Clubs also now have the power to ensure that their mini and youth sections comply with The Continuum.

CBs have the authority and must oversee the administration of mini/midi and youth rugby and ensure that all affiliated Clubs comply with:

The Continuum rules & laws.

Under 19 Law Variations.

Playing restrictions and child protection guidelines laid down by the RFU.

The Continuum Directive is covered by RFU disciplinary procedures. This means that any Club ignoring the directive may become liable to face action by its CB or the RFU Disciplinary Officer under RFU Rule 5.12.

It is very important therefore that we all follow the RFU rules, directives and regulations as well the Club's rules, regulations and policies. Failure to do so could lead to individuals and the Club being liable for claims of negligence.

One area requiring further clarification is the situation where minors are playing for senior sides. To ensure that those in the senior side understand the regulations relating to the safeguarding of minors during the playing of adult rugby and to guarantee adherence to the club's policies either the player's coach, nominated coach or parent will be present during any such sessions.

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“A player can play adult rugby at seventeen years of age, with the exception of a front row forwards who must be eighteen years old (including uncontested scrums). It is important to note that any Club playing a seventeen year-old player (or eighteen if front row) in the adult game must exercise great care and close supervision over such player and consider its duty of care to that player and others. Any breach of this requirement will incur a severe penalty.”