



Stockton Rugby Football Club

The Grangefield Ground

52a Oxbridge Avenue

Stockton-on-Tees TS18 4JF

www.stocktonrugby.co.uk

- 1) It shall be the responsibility of the club general management committee to be ultimately responsible to ensure the following accident and emergency procedures are complied with.
- 2) Stockton RFC is a club run entirely by unpaid volunteers and whilst it has no statutory responsibility as an employer as defined by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 it aims to comply with the standards demanded by health and safety legislation.
- 3) It is the intention to provide all players, and in particular children, with a sporting environment in which they can learn and advance their social and sporting skills, whilst making the environment in which they play, train or perform in any way as safe as possible.
- 4) There are two types of risk playing Rugby Union. They are:
 - a) Inherent risks which those are considered as part and parcel of the game. They are inevitable and acceptable, resulting from the players decision to participate in a contact sport
 - b) Unacceptable risks are those not compatible to the above inherent risks. Therefore all those who take part in refereeing, coaching, or administration must take their responsibility to safeguard the wellbeing of those who are taking part.
- 5) The fundamental aim of Stockton RFC is to maintain the highest reduction of injury possible, whilst at the same time accepting not all injuries can be avoided, those that are preventable must be eliminated.
- 6) Risk of injury is less when children learn the skills in a structured way, and the Stockton RFC will ensure at least one qualified and CRB checked referee and/or coach is available at each group training session or match.
- 7) The referee or coach in charge has the sole discretion of the following and their decision is final.
 - A) Clothing is an important aspect of the safety of the game and therefore prior to playing or training ALL jewellery, watches should be removed and players should not wear any items of clothing that may pose a risk of injury to themselves or others.
 - a) Appropriate protective clothing should be worn and conform to the recommendations of the IRB.
 - b) Stockton RFC strongly advises parents/guardians ensure that their child wears a mouth guard at all times when playing or training.
 - c) Glass lenses in spectacles should not be worn.
 - B) Pitch safety
The referee will ensure the pitch is marked and flags positioned correctly before commencing play.
 - a) The referee will ensure the posts are secure in the ground before commencing play, ensure they are properly protected and in good state of repair.
 - b) The referee will determine whether the ground is playable (e.g. not frozen or hard-baked, no potholes, not waterlogged etc.) and may impose such restrictions as deemed fit.
 - c) The referee will ensure the ground is free of foreign objects such as glass, concrete, large stones, dog waste, etc. before commencing play.

8 Playing

- a) The lead coach shall ensure that players have an appropriate warm up period before and after playing or training to reduce injury.
- b) The lead coach will ensure that players are sufficiently hydrated prior to participating and sufficient water is made freely available before, during and after any event.
- c) Alcohol is strictly forbidden before during and after any event concerning persons under the age of 18 years.

d) All players and teams have a responsibility to know and understand the rule of the game together with the skills and tactics to ensure safe play. Any action to the contrary places others at an unacceptable level of risk and may be subject to disciplinary procedure as defined by the RFU.

9 First Aid

a) All team coaches/officials should be aware of the location of the nearest emergency telephone and first aid kit.
b) First aid trained personnel are normally available on site, but this should be checked before play commences. c) Visiting sides should provide their own first aid kit. 10 Accident reports

a) ANY notifiable accident, as defined by the RFU, must be recorded on the RFU reportable Injury Event Form (available from the Stockton RFU web site) and passed to the Child Protection Officer (Mrs. Lyn Doherty) by the lead coach as soon as possible and in any case within 24 hours of the incident.

b) No young person who is injured shall leave the training session/ground to attend hospital or go home without an appropriate parent or guardian. If not available the lead coach must take responsibility to ensure the parent/guardian is notified as soon as possible.

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