



## Safeguarding

### U18 Playing Adult Rugby

This guidance is aimed at players who have been given permission from Scottish Rugby to play adult rugby, and adult only clubs, after successfully completing all relevant applications, learning modules and practical tests.

As per Scottish Rugby Safeguarding Policy, anyone under the age of 18 is a child or young person. Nevertheless, when a 17-year-old has been cleared to play up they are classed as an adult player in relation to their skills and development only. With regards to safeguarding the welfare of the young player clubs, volunteers and players can all take an active role in safeguarding the wellbeing and protection of this person. This document will highlight key points to reflect on and consider promoting good practice whether CPOs are at the club or not:

- After the dispensation form has been signed off by club official, provide a welcome pack to the young player with information on club, teams, and key contacts. This lets them know what to expect and encourages them to feel welcome.
- Even though an U18 player has been signed off to play adult rugby, the club must follow their child protection policy.
- Brief the adult team that the young person is moving to so they can be mindful of their behaviour and actions. Adult players will be seen as role models for the young player and should promote positive game and club culture behaviours by adhering to club and Scottish Rugby values (Leadership, Engagement, Achievement, Enjoyment, Respect).
- If the young player is staying within their own club, there will be a CPO in place. It is important the players and coaches know who the CPO is if they have any concerns for the young player.

In the event that the young player is moving to a club with no current youth section/teams the club should appoint a responsible adult to which any safeguarding concerns can be raised regarding the young player. There is no requirement for the club to have a Child Protection Officer (CPO) in place however it is expected that the club continue to follow their own code of conduct and relevant club policies

More information age grade rugby for players can be found [here](#). Alternatively you can contact [ayrtpr@srugby.org.uk](mailto:ayrtpr@srugby.org.uk) for further queries.

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding please contact a member of the safeguarding team.

Safeguarding Team  
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