



Berkshire RFU AGM Safeguarding Report – July 2025

We continue to work closely with clubs, volunteers, parents and players to ensure that rugby is a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment for all. I would like to thank all the club Safeguarding Officers for the work that they do, often alongside other volunteer roles. It doesn't go unnoticed.

Reporting and Case Management

This year saw the introduction of the online referral form, replacing the old pdf form. The form enables the right data to be collected as early as possible and is accessible from a mobile device allowing a referral to be quickly and easily.

When a referral is made, it is triaged by the safeguarding team at Twickenham, who will either carry out an investigation, pass it to the disciplinary team or refer it back to the CB to deal with. Common themes within Berkshire related to poor coaching practices, breach of Regulation 15, including playing out of age grade/adult rugby without appropriate approvals and inappropriate pitch side behaviour. An increasing number relate to the use of social media and messaging apps, so please ensure that you have a policy of how your age grade teams should be using these tools safely.

Disclosure and Barring Service

The long-awaited update service has been live for a while and for those individuals that signed up to use the service, the updates are now taking place without the need for ID and documents checks. This will continue to reduce the DBS burden on the CSOs as each new renewal is offered the opportunity to sign up for the service.

Play it Safe/In Touch Courses

Clubs can book Play It Safe courses directly with the trainers now and all clubs are encouraged to do so or link with another club if numbers are likely to be an issue. In Touch courses are currently still virtual but this does mean that they are run more frequently than in previous years.

Laura Lewis

Berkshire RFU Safeguarding Manager