

SIDCUP RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

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 all Club'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, Under 19 Variations' clearly state what is allowed.

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 club 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.