



RUGBY LEAGUE IRELAND

Adult Safeguarding Policy 2025

1. Purpose

Rugby League Ireland (RLI) is committed to ensuring that all adults involved in rugby league participate in an environment that promotes dignity, respect, wellbeing, and safety. This policy outlines RLI's responsibilities to safeguard adults from harm, abuse, neglect, discrimination, bullying, or exploitation.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all adults aged 18+ involved in RLI activities, including players, coaches, volunteers, referees, officials, Board members, club staff, and spectators.

3. Policy Statement

RLI will promote safe and inclusive environments, prevent harm through safeguarding measures, respond effectively to concerns, and work with statutory and sporting authorities to ensure protection and welfare.

4. Definitions

An 'Adult at Risk' is an individual who may be vulnerable to harm due to disability, illness, mental health, communication difficulty, social isolation, or dependency. Types of harm include physical, emotional, sexual, financial, discriminatory, neglect, digital, and organisational abuse.

5. Principles of Adult Safeguarding

RLI adopts Sport Ireland's principles: Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership, and Accountability.

6. Roles & Responsibilities

The RLI Board oversees safeguarding implementation. The Adult Safeguarding Officer (ASO) manages concerns, liaises with agencies, and ensures safe practice. Clubs must have Welfare Officers, promote safeguarding, and report concerns. Coaches and volunteers must follow safeguarding procedures and training requirements.

7. Safe Recruitment & Vetting

RLI requires Garda Vetting for relevant roles, safeguarding training, clear role descriptions, reference checks, and adherence to Codes of Conduct. Individuals with a known history of abuse or exploitation will not hold positions of trust.

8. Responding to Concerns

Recognising concerns may include behavioural changes, unexplained injuries, or disclosures. Concerns must be reported to the RLI ASO. In emergencies, contact 999/112. The ASO will assess

risk, consult relevant personnel, and refer to HSE Safeguarding Teams or Gardaí when necessary.

9. Confidentiality & Record Keeping

All safeguarding information will be stored securely, shared only on a need-to-know basis, and handled in line with GDPR and Sport Ireland guidelines.

10. Adult Safeguarding in Rugby League Settings

Areas of increased safeguarding risk include changing rooms, travel, digital communication, one-to-one situations, and medical treatment. Clubs will receive guidance to minimise risks in these environments.

11. Training & Education

RLI will ensure the ASO is trained to Sport Ireland Level 2, support club Welfare Officers, and provide education for coaches, referees, and volunteers through workshops and online resources.

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if required by updates to Sport Ireland or IRL frameworks, or following a major safeguarding incident within RLI.