



Barnstaple Rugby Football Club

Whistle Blowing Policy

Policy statement

Barnstaple Rugby Football Club is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, honesty and accountability.

In line with that commitment, all members are encouraged to come forward and voice any concerns.

It is recognised that certain cases will have to proceed on a confidential basis.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse or poor practice must be taken seriously, appropriately reported and managed accordingly. It is recognised that strong emotions can be aroused, particularly in cases where any form of abuse or poor practices is suspected or where there is loyalty, sometimes misplaced, to a colleague or someone who is known to you. Where an individual feel unable to report concerns internally they should contact the RFU Safeguarding team, Police, or Social Care.

Individuals may be reluctant to express concern because they feel harassment or victimisation.

In these circumstances it is important to understand these feelings but not to allow them to interfere with the need to ensure that concerns are reported appropriately. Individuals reporting concerns will be supported by the Club and or the RFU.

All information received will be treated in confidence and only shared on a need to know basis with those individuals who will be able to manage the situation. On occasions it may be necessary to seek advice, or inform the statutory agencies e.g. the Police or Local Authority children's or Adult Services.

If you have any concerns, please report to either **the Club President, Chairman, or the Club Secretary.**

- Policy taken/amended from England RFU Whistle Blowing Policy template April 2019.
- Version 1

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