



RGU SPORTS CLUBS SAFEGUARDING POLICY

In line with RGU: Union's safeguarding policy, RGU Sports Clubs are fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all persons in their supervision, particularly those that are regarded by law as most vulnerable.

RGU Sports Clubs recognise their responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect vulnerable persons from harm, abuse, and exploitation. Members and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of young people and vulnerable groups.

RGU Sports Clubs recognise that the welfare of its members must be of primary concern for all staff, volunteers, and members. This guidance document has been produced to prevent/address any potential/current safeguarding issues, whether intentional or unintentional, direct, or indirect, against its members and volunteers.

This document, along with RGU: Union's safeguarding policy, outlines RGU Sports Clubs commitment to protecting vulnerable adults/groups.

These guidelines are based on the following principles:

- RGU Sports Club members are young adults (over the age of 16), who have the ability to understand and provide consent in their decision making or have a proxy who can act on their behalf, that has been made known to the University and RGU:Union.
- All members, regardless of their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
- Safeguarding of vulnerable groups is everyone's responsibility.
- Vulnerable persons have the right to express views on all matters, which affect them, should they wish to do so.
- RGU Sports Clubs shall work in partnership with their members and the Robert Gordon University to promote the welfare, health, and development of vulnerable groups.
- RGU Sports Clubs assess and mitigate risk towards vulnerable adults in three key ways:
 1. By providing robust procedures for reporting and managing concerns.
 2. By taking a "whole person approach" to safeguarding, which may utilise expertise from across the university to design and deliver an appropriate support plan.
 3. By observing relevant industry guidance and using SportScotland approved resources to educate individuals in positions of leadership on safeguarding.

The following principles will serve as a guideline for all RGU Sports Club activity:

- Clubs must actively promote the health and wellbeing of all vulnerable persons by providing opportunities for them to participate in sport safely.
- Clubs should respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of every RGU Sports Club Member.
- Members and volunteers must abide by the RGU:Union Safeguarding Policy, this guidance document and all relevant policies and procedures.
- Clubs must actively engage in wellbeing education sessions and must ensure members of the committee utilise the training and information they are provided with to signpost students to appropriate services where required. More information on the services available can be found in appendix A.



Reporting concerns for a member's welfare:

In the case of suspected, abuse, harm exploitation or any immediate concern for Club Members welfare should be reported, by following section 6. Reporting, in the RGU: Union Policy: Safeguarding.

Details on the action which may be taken by the Designated Safeguarding Officer can be found in RGU: Union Policy: Safeguarding appendix 3: Designated Safeguarding Officer: Reporting and Managing Concerns.

We understand that support services maybe required, to help support students who have received a disclosure or who have been impacted by welfare concerns. A list of all University support services can be found:

<https://www.rguunion.co.uk/pageassets/getinvolved/sport/clubinfo/Club-info-Support-Services.pdf>.

Appendix 1. Support Services

Listed below are notable Union and University support services. Further information on Union and University support services can be found at rguunion.co.uk/relatedservices.

RGU:Union Support Services

- **RGU:Union Advice & Support**
This service provides confidential and impartial advice to students. If you are unsure of who to contact or where to turn, they will listen to you and give you advice and/or support.
advice@rguunion.co.uk - 01224 262266
- **RGU:Union Peer Support**
This is an RGU:Union Student Group which offers students the chance to chat about mental health, wellbeing, or anything else that is bothering individuals. They offer a safe-space and set up peer-to-peer sessions and self-help workshops.
peersupport@rguunion.co.uk
- **RGU:Nightline**
This is an RGU:Union Student Group and operates a student-led peer to peer helpline which offers a non-judgmental, confidential and anonymous listening and support service to students at RGU. They have specially trained student volunteers who can empathise with and listen to callers.
listening@rgu.nightline.ac.uk - 01224 263646 (20:00-08:00hrs)

RGU Support Services

- **ResLife**
This service supports students in student accommodation, providing out-of-hours welfare and pastoral support, and offer an extensive signposting service.
reslife@rgu.ac.uk - 01224 262193
- **The Counselling & Wellbeing Centre**
This service offers support on a range of issues, for example: adjusting to university life, anxiety, depression, stress etc. They operate a triage system ensuring the best and most relevant support is provided.
counselling@rgu.ac.uk - 01224 262120 - (Use [Ask RGU](#) to book an appointment)
- **Inclusion Centre: Disability & Dyslexia**
This service can provide information and advice to support students who are suffering from a variety of issues (i.e. long-term health conditions, sensory impairments, physical disabilities, mental-health difficulties, specific learning difficulties etc).
inclusion@rgu.ac.uk - 01224 262103 - (Use [Ask RGU](#) to book an appointment)
- **Report + Support**
RGU has a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and harassment. All staff, students, and visitors can report something anonymously or get support from an advisor by visiting the Report + Support platform.
[Report + Support](#)