



## **BASINGSTOKE** RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

### **Basingstoke RFC Recreational Drug Policy**

#### **1. Purpose**

This policy sets out the expectations, standards, and responsibilities relating to the possession, use, supply, or influence of recreational drugs within Basingstoke Rugby Football Club (“the Club”). Its aim is to ensure a safe, inclusive, and legally compliant environment for players, staff, volunteers, and spectators.

#### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to:

- All players (of all age and grades)
- All staff, coaches, volunteers, and committee members
- All match officials
- All spectators, visitors, and contractors
- All Club premises, grounds, events, and activities, including away fixtures, tours, and social functions

#### **3. Definitions**

- Recreational drugs: Any controlled substance as defined by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, including illegal drugs and non-prescribed psychoactive substances.
- Club premises: All buildings, pitches, car parks, and surrounding areas owned, leased, or used by the Club.
- Under the influence: Behaviour or presentation indicating impairment or intoxication due to drug use.

#### **4. Policy Statement**

The Club has zero tolerance for the possession, use, supply, or distribution of recreational drugs on Club premises or at any Club-related activity.

The Club is committed to:

- Upholding the law
- Protecting the welfare of children and adults
- Maintaining a safe environment
- Safeguarding the Club's reputation
- Supporting individuals who seek help for substance misuse

## **5. Expectations and Responsibilities**

### 5.1 Players

- Must not possess, use, or be under the influence of recreational drugs during training, matches, travel, or Club events.
- Must comply with RFU anti-doping regulations and testing requirements.
- Must report concerns about drug-related behaviour to the Club Safeguarding Officer or a committee member.

### 5.2 Staff, Coaches, and Volunteers

- Must model appropriate behaviour and uphold this policy at all times.
- Must not tolerate or ignore drug-related activity.
- Must report incidents promptly and confidentially.

### 5.3 Spectators and Visitors

- Must not bring, use, or distribute recreational drugs on Club premises.
- Must comply with instructions from Club officials.
- May be refused entry or removed from the premises for breaches.

## **6. Prohibited Conduct**

The following are strictly prohibited on Club premises or at Club activities:

- Possession or use of recreational drugs
- Supplying or attempting to supply drugs
- Being under the influence of drugs
- Encouraging or facilitating drug use
- Bringing drug paraphernalia onto Club property

## **7. Incident Management**

### 7.1 Immediate Action

Where drug-related behaviour is suspected:

- The individual may be approached by a senior Club official or committee member.
- Safety and safeguarding considerations take priority.
- The individual may be asked to leave the premises.
- Emergency services may be contacted if required.

### 7.2 Reporting

All incidents must be reported to:

- The Club Chair
- The Club Safeguarding Officer (if a child or vulnerable adult is involved)
- The Club Discipline Officer (if applicable)

### 7.3 Investigation

The Club will conduct a fair and confidential investigation, which may include:

- Witness statements
- Review of CCTV (if available)
- Liaison with police or governing bodies
- Temporary suspension where necessary

## **8. Consequences of Breach**

Depending on severity, consequences may include:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Suspension from training, matches, or Club activities
- Removal from volunteer or coaching roles
- Termination of membership
- Bans from Club premises
- Referral to the RFU or law enforcement

The Club reserves the right to impose sanctions proportionate to the incident and in line with RFU regulations.

## 9. Support and Welfare

The Club encourages individuals struggling with substance misuse to seek help. The Club may:

- Provide signposting to professional support services
- Offer confidential discussions with welfare officers
- Support rehabilitation where appropriate

Seeking help will not result in disciplinary action unless a breach of this policy has occurred.

## 10. Safeguarding

Where a child or vulnerable adult is involved, safeguarding procedures take precedence.

All concerns will be handled in accordance with:

- RFU Safeguarding Policy
- Club Safeguarding Policy
- Statutory guidance (e.g., Working Together to Safeguard Children)

## 11. RFU Player Policy

The RFU has a detailed policy regarding drug use and players and can be found here: <https://rfu.widen.net/s/fqvb92hg5q/illicit-drugs-policy>

This policy has been adopted in accordance with the club constitution.

Signed: *LMottram*

Name: Laurence Mottram

Position: Chair of Governance

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

For further information about Basingstoke RFC Policies and guidance please visit our full document area at <https://www.basingstokerfc.com/information/club-documents>