



Safe Kids Policy - Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy -Be a Kaitiaki for our Tamariki

Why Safeguarding Matters

Every child and young person has the right to feel safe, respected, and supported when they play sport. As a club, we are responsible for:

- Creating an environment where everyone feels welcome and safe. (Safeguarding)
- Preventing harm from occurring in our environments, being a safe club. (Safeguarding)

Respond appropriately and intervene early when concerns arise (Protection)

Safeguarding isn't about blame — it's about protecting potential by putting in the safeguards needed to prevent harm and knowing what to do if harm has happened.

What Safeguarding Looks Like

At our club, we: Follow the Safe Kids Safe Club Guidelines and align with the expectations of our Provincial Union and NZR in how we look after children in our care

- Treat everyone with respect and fairness and in line with our club values and code of conduct
- Use positive language and encouragement and reinforce our expectations with all members of our club
- The Safety and Wellbeing of the child and young person is our primary consideration
- Keep communication open — children and parents can speak up at any time
- In our environments we will act early with individuals and teams when concerns arise

Anyone can and should report suspected child abuse or neglect concerns to our statutory agencies, the New Zealand Police and Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children.

Anyone with a concern about the health, safety and wellbeing of children can make a Report of Concern based on facts or a genuine belief to statutory agencies.

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 111.

If we are worried, we will contact our Provincial Union Safe Kids Advisor for advice and to decide on a response. Our Advisor at the Provincial Union is Josh Standen



Taupo Marist Rugby Club

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	What They Do
All Adults (coaches, managers, volunteers)	Follow the Safe Kids Safe Clubs Advice and report any concerns
Child Protection Officer	First point of contact for safety or wellbeing concerns and liaison point for the Safe Kids Advisor from the Provincial Union.
Committee/Leadership	Support good safeguarding practices and training for our Under 18 participants. Ensure all club members comply with safety requirements with children in the clubs care.
Parents and Whānau	Partner with the club to keep children safe, understand their role with supporting everyone's children.
Safe Kids Advisor	Provide Advice and Assistance for the Club on child safeguarding including a decision-making process for concerns, share education re-safeguarding and advice on making clubs safer.
Safeguarding Lead NZR	Support the Safe Kids Advisor with concerns and advice. Be a point of contact if conflict of interest is present with Advisor. Provide policies and guidance to the rugby system.



When Something Goes Wrong

Recognising Concerns

You might notice a child:

- Seems withdrawn, anxious, or fearful, talks about being hurt or treated badly by an adult in their life or at the club, shows changes in behaviour or performance.
- You see behaviour in adults which doesn't reflect the club values or follow the Safe Kids guidance

Trust your instincts — if something feels wrong, say something, speak to your Club Safeguarding person or your Safe Kids Advisor.

How to Respond if Concerns are raised with you

Keep calm and listen

Don't investigate, get the best understanding you can and then seek advice.

Reporting & Response Flow

You notice or are told about a concern



Tell the Club Safeguarding Officer/Provincial Union Safe Kids Advisor and record your concerns on the template they can provide



Together record decision making and help decide next steps – may contact NZR Safeguarding team, Oranga Tamariki, or Police. Ensure it is clear who and when the parent or caregiver is being communicated with.



Club supports the child and ensures safety

Good Practice Reminders

- ✓ Always meet with young players in open, visible spaces
- ✓ Keep communication professional (no private messaging of children or young people rule of two online to)
- ✓ Gain parent consent for travel, photos, or media use
- ✓ Encourage children's voices in decisions that affect them
- ✓ Keep learning — do annual safeguarding refreshers



Taupo Marist Rugby Club

Our Club Promise

TDS Taupō Marist Rugby Club is a proud, family-centred rugby organization based in Taupō, New Zealand. Founded on the values of Hard Work, Respect, Dedication, and Inclusiveness, the club has deep roots in the local community dating back to 1986.

As a member of the King Country Rugby Union, TDS Taupō Marist supports senior, junior, women's, and presidents' grade teams, and is the last remaining senior rugby club in the Taupō region. With a strong focus on grassroots development, community involvement, and sporting excellence, the club welcomes players and supporters of all ages and skill levels.

The Junior club aspires to provide a supervised, safe and caring environment both on and off the field, for boys and girls to enhance their educational, cultural, recreational, and social wellbeing.

Contact our Child Protection Officer: George Colvin, george.colvin@hotmail.com

Safe Kids Safe Club guidance can be found at [Safety and Welfare | NZ Rugby](#)