PARENTAL ATTENDANCE AT RUGBY
TIVERTON RUGBY CLUB

Document owner	Club Safeguarding Officer
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Applies to	Mini, youth, Colts/U18, adult teams involving 17-year-olds, coaches, managers, parents/guardians

At Tiverton Rugby Club we encourage parents to stay at rugby activities while their child is there, as transporting children and adults at risk from their rugby activities can be demanding for clubs to manage.

Clubs should develop a transport policy publicised to parents/guardians via the club welcome pack and club website advising on the club views on dropping off and collecting children, to ensure parents/ guardians are aware of their expectations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities
While all parents/guardians should remain on the premises throughout a session, it is particularly important for children up to and including the age of under 11s. Parents play a big role in encouraging children to take part, and stay, in rugby. A parent/guardian's input can be incredibly influential in helping their child to live a healthy and active lifestyle. The presence of parents/guardians can also help children feel safer at their club.

In most instances, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians, not the club, to transport the child or adult to and from rugby activities, whether that be training or home and away matches. We recognise that parents make private arrangements between themselves to help manage collection duties. For example, this could include parents arranging to drop off their friend's children, or vice versa. These arrangements are made solely at the discretion of the parents and carers involved, and it would be best practice to ensure that coaches, and all staff/volunteers involved in collection, are aware of such arrangements.

If parents/guardians make arrangements that involve their child being picked up or dropped off by someone other than themselves, they must then ensure that the club has sufficient contact details for them, as well as emergency and secondary contact details.

Late Collection
If parents/guardians are late to collect their child, they should ensure they make every effort to contact the club to let them know of their delay, and when they are expecting to arrive. This should be done as soon as the parent/guardian is aware they are going to be late. We understand that this may not always be possible. It is important that the coaches have

appropriate emergency contact details, and secondary details, for all children and adults at risk.

If the parent/guardian is late to collection, and the coach (or individual) responsible to supervise the child/adult at risk until their parent/guardian arrives has not been made aware, they will:

- attempt to contact the parents/guardians directly
- wait with the child/adult at risk, preferably in the company of others
- notify the Club Safeguarding Officer or another club official
- remind parents/guardians of their responsibility to collect their child/adult promptly when they do ultimately make contact or arrive

Tiverton RFU will make a note of any pattern of late collection and report this to the Club Safeguarding Officer, as this could be signs of neglect towards the child.

Tiverton RFU will communicate their expectations regarding drop off, collection, and late collection of a child as early in the season as possible to ensure all parents/guardians understand their responsibilities.

In some instances, older children may make their own way to and from training or matches. It is important that parents have given consent and children are comfortable with this arrangement. The responsibility for a child's safety and wellbeing when travelling rests with the parent/guardian and they should ensure that they are available in case of emergencies.

No Collection

In some instances, children's parents/guardians may not show up at all to collect their child from rugby. Once the club have exhausted all steps they would take when dealing with a late collection, the club must consider making a call to Children's Social Care to explain that they have a possible abandoned child.