

## Sale Sharks - Matchday Safeguarding Policy 2023 – 2024 season.

The following document provides details and advice regarding incidents that may take place at a Sale Sharks home fixture at the Salford Stadium. (formally AJ Bell Stadium).

### 1. Introduction

Sale Sharks endeavours to ensure that attending a fixture is a positive experience for everyone. When considering bringing a child or adult at risk, please consider their age, health requirements, time of the fixture, the weather conditions and any other applicable factors that may create risk.

### 2. Staying Together

Staff at the Salford Stadium are well trained and experienced in providing a safe environment for all our visitors but wherever there are large gatherings of people, there are risks. We aim to have a family-friendly environment but that does not mean common sense will always prevail. Parents or other chaperones have primary responsibility for the safety of the children and adults at risk and should always keep them close. Please be aware of where your child is at all times during your visit and have a plan to meet somewhere if you get separated (one point inside and one point outside stadium). Ensure they know who to contact should they feel lost or worried. Stewards are situated around the stands in high visibility jackets. Stewards are trained in how to deal with lost children and we have a protocol in place for this, please ensure your child knows not to go off with a spectator they do not know. Should you get separated from your child please contact a steward immediately and listen to announcements over the stadium speakers.

We have an appointed officer (Head of Safeguarding for Sale Sharks) who will be on duty at all home matches. This designated lead is responsible for Safeguarding and Child Protection, (serious incidents that require interventions)

### 3. Emergencies

Please ensure your child is aware what to do in case of an emergency including how to evacuate the stadium in an emergency and where to meet up with you if you become separated.

### 4. Weather

Weather conditions through the rugby season mean visitors are likely to experience all weather types: early and late season may mean high temperatures and strong sunshine – parts of the stadium may be in full sun for long periods of time; mid-winter games, especially at night, may mean sub-zero temperatures, rain, wind and snow; and frost and ice underfoot may also be an extra hazard for those carrying or walking with small children. Please be very careful in cold and wet and windy conditions.

Babies and very small children can become very cold very quickly, even at times of the year where adults feel that it is warm outside, they will more than likely be inactive at the stadium and get cold quickly. Keep an eye on your child - don't forget – unusually quiet with bright red skin doesn't necessarily mean they are warm and happy; this could be a sign of hypothermia (their skin will be cold). If you do bring your child to a match, remember to clothe them with layers, at least one more than you are likely to be wearing as well as an outer coat, hat and gloves in cold conditions. Check the weather forecast before you leave and be prepared for it to be colder, wetter, hotter than predicted.

### 5. Noise

Rugby matches are noisy events: The noise levels go up and down throughout a match; small children are more sensitive to noise and thus are more prone to hearing damage; whilst long term damage from the noise at stadiums is unlikely, the peak sounds can reach the same levels experienced in a nightclub. Ear Defenders, or Ear plugs will help to protect their hearing and ear defenders may also help to keep them warmer.

## 6. Safeguarding

The club has Safeguarding Officers that are present at all matches. Should you have a concern about a child or vulnerable adult whilst at a match please contact a steward immediately who will put you in contact with the Safeguarding Officer on duty. Please view the Sale Sharks Safeguarding of Children and Adult at Risk (vulnerable adult) Policy for further information.

## 7. Responding to a Referral/Incident

Should anyone have any concern about a child or adult at risk (whilst at a matchday, please contact a steward immediately). They will then notify the safeguarding officers for Sale Sharks

Any referral/incident reported to any matchday member of staff\* working at the AJ Bell Stadium will report the situation to the Control Room. The Control Room will then contact the Sale Sharks Head of Safeguarding, Carol Baker who will then proceed to deal with the incident or report of concern in line with policies and protocols. Other officers who may be in attendance and are safeguarding officers.

Safeguarding Staff from Sale Sharks working on matchdays include.

Carol Baker – 07786 367631. Head of Safeguarding Lead \*always in attendance\*

Paul Smith – 07872 827141 \*always in attendance\*

Andrew Jibson – 07725 971581 \*sometimes in attendance

Vicky Irwin – 07568 053428 \*sometimes in attendance

8. Safeguarding Match Day Incident Reporting: Incident reported to steward or other Sale Sharks employee or volunteer (“Lifeguards” new in 2023)

1. Immediately report to control room ( via radio) who contact Sale Sharks matchday safeguarding officer.
2. Sale Sharks matchday safeguarding officer liaises with stadium & police as required.

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Incident reported to steward (without radio)

1. Steward locates supervisor who is equipped with a radio.
2. Report to control room who contact Sale Sharks matchday safeguarding officer.
3. Sale Sharks matchday safeguarding officer liaises with stadium & police as required

Sale Sharks Head of Safeguarding can be located by contacting reception, contacting the control room, or phoning 07786 367631 ( Head of Safeguarding)

Advice or reporting concerns – none urgent; can be sent to [safeguardingreporting@salesharks.com](mailto:safeguardingreporting@salesharks.com)