



Sale Sharks - Matchday Safeguarding Policy 2024 – 2025 season.

Reviewed Augst 2024 Carol Baker Head of Safeguarding

The following document provides details and advice regarding incidents that may take place at a Sale Sharks home fixtures at the Salford Community Stadium. (formally AJ Bell Stadium) and at CorpAcq Stadium (Heywood Road Sale). It is a supporting policy; to the more in depth Children and Adults at Risk Protection Policies.

1. Introduction

Sale Sharks endeavour to ensure that attending a fixture is a positive experience for everyone. When 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 both stadia , Salford Community Stadium and CorpAcq , are well trained and experienced in providing a safe environment for all visitors; wherever there are large gatherings of people, there are potential risks.

We strive and aim to have a family-friendly environment and expect common sense will always prevail. Parents or guardians have primary responsibility for the safety of the children and adults at risk in their care.

We advise people to be aware of where their child(ren) or adult (for whom they are responsible for); are at all times. Spectators should have a plan and location at the stadium to meet up if unintentionally separated. We request that people especially children know who to contact or speak to should they become lost or worried.

Stewards and Sale Sharks 'LIFEGUARDS' (volunteers who wear red lifeguard clothing and are there to enhance spectator experiences), are situated around the stands in high visibility jackets and lifeguard clothing . Stewards and Lifeguards are trained in how to deal with 'found' (lost) children and we have a protocol in place for repatriation with parents and carers.

Please ensure that children know, not to go off with any person or spectator they do not know, and that Stewards are the first person they should inform if they are lost.

Should people become separated from children or adults at risk, please contact a steward immediately who will initiate the procedures to find your lost charge.

We have an appointed officer (Head of Safeguarding for Sale Sharks) who will be on duty at all home matches. This designated safeguarding lead is responsible for Safeguarding and Child Protection, (especially more serious incidents that require interventions, reporting and investigation) and for the process of repatriation should Stewards or Lifeguards be unable to reunite parties.

3. Emergencies

Please ensure that children are aware what to do in case of an emergency including how to stay close and with parents, how to evacuate the stadium in an emergency and where to meet up with their parents if people become separated.

INFO@SALESHARKS.COM | WWW.SALESHARKS.COM

Manchester Sale Rugby Club Limited, Sale Sharks High Performance Centre, Carrington Lane, Manchester M31 4AB
Registered in England & Wales: 3333690



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 and in higher temperatures please ensure protection from the sun and stay hydrated with water.

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. Please keep watch on small young children – unusually quiet with bright red skin doesn't necessarily mean they are warm and happy; it could be a sign of hypothermia (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 high levels. Ear Defenders, or Ear plugs will help to protect their hearing and ear defenders may also help to keep them warmer.

6. Safeguarding

All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm or discrimination will be taken seriously, recorded, investigated and acted upon.

Sale Sharks acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard and protect the welfare of all persons, particularly children and vulnerable adults, involved with the club from any harm.

Sale Sharks has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Head of Safeguarding; and 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) Policies for further information and guidance.

7. Responding to an Incident and Actions

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 designated safeguarding officer for Sale Sharks.

Any referral/incident reported to any matchday member of staff working at the Stadiums, will be reported to the on-site control room.

The Control Room staff will contact the Sale Sharks Head of Safeguarding, (Carol Baker) who will then deal with the incident or report of concern, in line with the law, policies and protocols.



Officers who may be in attendance and are safeguarding officers.

Safeguarding Staff from Sale Sharks working on matchdays may include.

Carol Baker – 07786 367631. Head of Safeguarding – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Andrew Jibson – 07725 971581 *sometimes in attendance

Vicky Irwin – 07568 053428 *sometimes in attendance

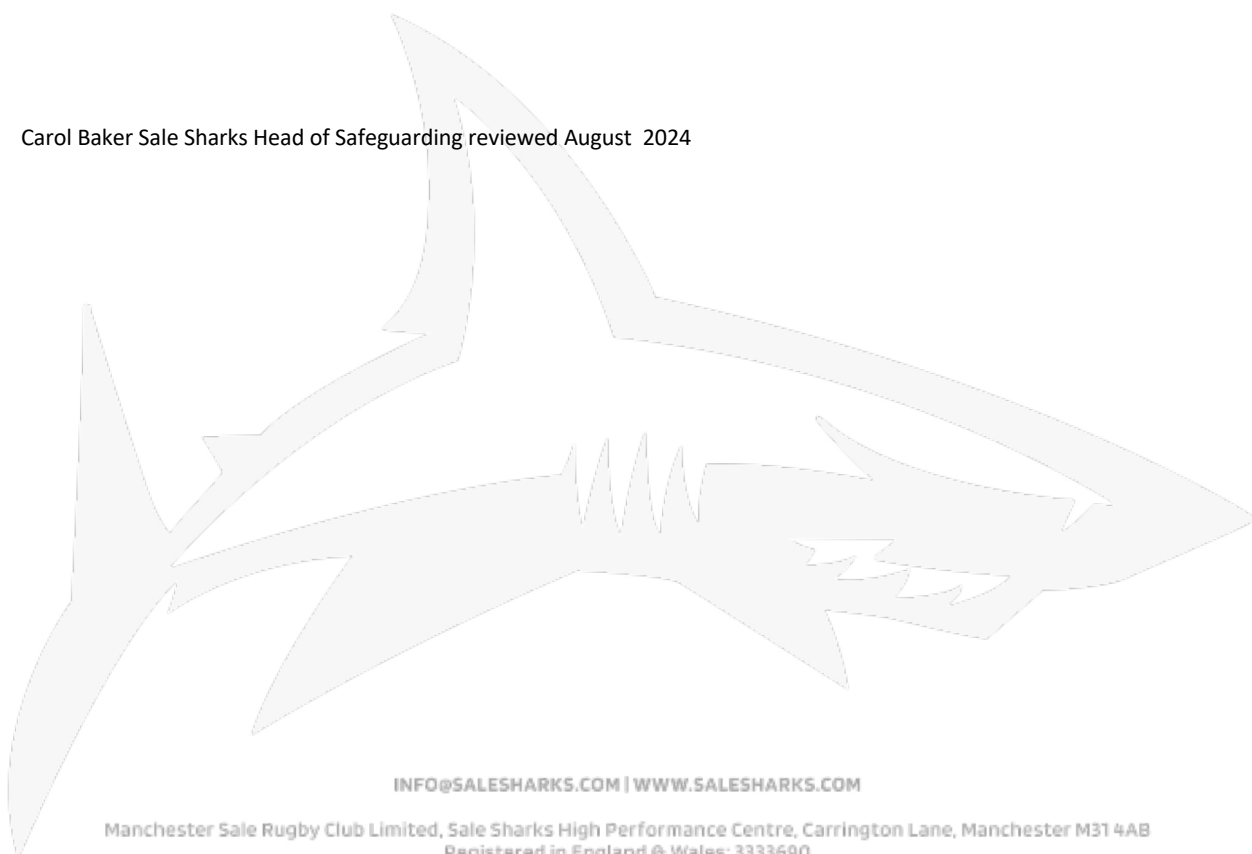
Sale Sharks Head of Safeguarding Carol Baker ; can be located by contacting reception, contacting the control room, or phoning 07786 367631 (Head of Safeguarding) or by emailing carol.baker@salesharks.com

Incidents of a non-urgent nature may also be reported via the designated email address which can offer advice and support.

safeguardingreporting@salesharks.com

These emails are checked every 24 hours.

Carol Baker Sale Sharks Head of Safeguarding reviewed August 2024



INFO@SALESHARKS.COM | WWW.SALESHARKS.COM

Manchester Sale Rugby Club Limited, Sale Sharks High Performance Centre, Carrington Lane, Manchester M31 4AB
Registered in England & Wales: 3333690