

LIVE STREAMING POLICY – CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS AT RISK

1. PREAMBLE

Live streaming is a live visual broadcast over the internet. It is increasingly becoming a way of communicating and showing footage, including matches within the sport of Rugby League. It has obvious advantages and allows the sport to be showcased more widely. However, as with any form of communication a policy must be put in place to guard against misuse and in particular in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk. A live match can be both unpredictable and hard to moderate, and consideration needs to be given to both the group being streamed and who might be able to access the content. Whilst this Policy sets out the mandatory requirements of a club or organisation streaming a match, the club is also referred to the RFL Guidance on Live Streaming that is available from the RFL upon request. Whenever live streaming is used, the following must be in place/adhered to:

1.1 Consent

- The parents/guardians of children/adults at risk should be made aware that streaming is to take place and provided the opportunity to refuse to allow their child/adult at risk to continue to participate.
- Written consent from the parents/guardians/carers of children/adults at risk should be in place for live streaming to take place.
- Any consent provided should ideally be specific to the match/es which are to be streamed. Any consent should not be indefinite and, at a maximum, should be renewed prior to the start of each Season.
- When the parent/guardian/carer provides consent, they must be informed of the following:
 - where any live streaming will be shown or shared (Facebook, YouTube etc),
 - where any content will be stored for future use;
 - when the streaming will start/end;
 - who the stream itself will be monitored by (so that inappropriate content such as posts can be removed).

1.2 Location of the camera/live stream

- Any live streaming equipment must not encroach on the field of play, within technical areas, block fire exits or restrict access in any other way such that it would compromise the safety of the match or those participating/spectating (including all cables and wiring).
- The live stream must be considered within any event risk assessment and event welfare plan.
- Live streaming must never be taken of partially/fully undressed individuals and footage should not be taken in changing rooms

1.3 Identifying information

- Personal information accompanying images which could place a child or adult at risk in jeopardy must not be used. In the case of streams used on websites, care must be taken to ensure that personal contact details which could identify a child/adult at risk are not revealed, including email or address.

- The stream must be focused on the game.
- All images and recordings should be securely stored.
- Particular attention should be given to the fact that, in rare cases, it may not be possible to show a child's image as a result of that child being in the care of social services.

1.4 Monitoring

- Streaming should only be undertaken by an appointed person.
- An identified individual must be responsible for monitoring the live stream throughout, and any incidents or inappropriate behaviour must be logged and reported to the CWO or Event Manager.
- The live stream must be stopped immediately if the welfare of any child, young person or vulnerable adult is put at risk.
- If comments are activated, these should also be monitored. Inappropriate comments must be deleted, and individuals blocked who use this function inappropriately.

1.5 Incidents

- The camera should be redirected if a child/adult at risk is hurt or upset.
 - Discretion should be used when filming any incident involving aggressive behaviour.
2. Live streaming provides exciting opportunities to showcase rugby league. Due consideration to this policy should ensure that this is done in a safe and appropriate manner.
 3. Please contact Barry Pollin, RFL Safeguarding Manager on 07540636516, or email safeguarding@rfl.co.uk if you have any questions.