

# TRIBUNALS

## GUIDANCE FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, PARENTS AND CARERS

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If you have been called to give evidence at, or attend a tribunal held by the Rugby Football League Operational Rules Tribunal, please find some information below that you may find useful. If you have questions that are not addressed here, please contact the safeguarding team (details below) who will assist you in your query.

### *Why am I being asked to attend?*

If you are the defendant, you are being called because you have been charged with acting outside of the RFL Operational Rules. At the end of the RFL investigation the Safeguarding Case Management Group referred this investigation to the Operational Rules Tribunal. You will be asked questions about your statement and have the opportunity to expand on anything you have previously said. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions about the other statements through the panel. The panel will ask these questions on your behalf.

If you are attending as a witness, you will be asked questions about your statement and given the opportunity to expand on this

### *Who will be at the tribunal hearing?*

In attendance there will be:

The defendant and a parent/guardian.

Witnesses and parent/guardian.

The Disciplinary Panel (made up of three independent people who have not been involved in the investigation).

Robert Hicks - RFL Safeguarding Compliance Team

Disciplinary Secretary.

Colette Eden - The RFL Safeguarding Manager

### *How long will the tribunal hearing last?*

As with most things, this is difficult to say. It would usually be no more than two hours.

### *If I am a witness, will I have to face the defendant?*

No, you will not have to face the defendant and will be seated in another area for the benefit of you both. You will not be in the room with the panel at the same time as each other.

### *Can I bring my parents and a Solicitor with me?*

Yes, we would expect a parent/guardian to attend with you, to ask questions on your behalf and to ask for things to be explained if need be. You can bring a Solicitor with you but this is not a requirement.

### *My parents cannot attend, can I bring someone from my club?*

Yes, with the permission of your parent/guardian you may bring another adult with you. Your Club Welfare Officer (CWO) may be the most appropriate person to bring if they can attend. The CWO would be the best person to advise you and your parents on who is the most suitable person to attend with you.

### *What do I do if I do not understand a question?*

If you do not understand a question being asked of you, you need to say so to the person asking the question of you. If you do not want to do this, you can tell the Safeguarding Manager who is there to assist and support you.

### *What shall I wear?*

It is advisable to wear comfortable clothing and there is no need to be formal. Club leisure wear may be the most appropriate.

### *Will the outcome be decided on the night?*

Yes – a decision is made on the night and the defendant will be informed of the outcome and any actions.

## *Can an appeal be made against the decision?*

Yes, an appeal against a decision must be made in writing to the RFL Compliance Manager.

## *Will there be someone present to explain things to me/offer support?*

Yes – there will be an independent person present who is not part of the hearing. The RFL Safeguarding Manager Colette Eden will be in attendance and will be there to explain things to you and will be present in the room when you give evidence to the panel.

## *Contact details:*

Colette Eden Safeguarding Manager 0113 237 5046 / 07595 520610

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Robert Hicks Compliance Team 07710 009244

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The RFL Safeguarding Team 0844 4777113 Option 6

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