1st September 2025

**New Milton RFC (NMRFC) – Parental Attendance Policy for Players Under 18**

**Dear Parent or Guardian,**

At New Milton RFC, the welfare and safeguarding of all players under the age of 18 is paramount. In line with the RFU’s safeguarding framework and Hampshire RFU guidance, we wish to clarify our expectations regarding parental attendance and responsibility.

**General Expectations**

Parents and guardians are expected to take full responsibility for their children at all times—whether during training sessions, fixtures (home or away), or while socialising at the club. The practice of dropping children off without making appropriate supervision arrangements is not supported.

While all parents or designated adults should remain on-site for the duration of any rugby activity, this is especially critical for children aged 11 and under. Your presence not only supports your child’s emotional wellbeing and confidence but also reinforces their engagement in a healthy, active lifestyle.

Please ensure that your contact details and your child’s medical history—including any injuries, allergies, or relevant conditions—are accurately recorded and kept up to date in the Game Management System (GMS). Should you require assistance, please speak with your child’s Age Group Manager.

**Mini Age Groups (Under 11 and Below)**

* A parent, guardian, or designated adult must be present at all times during training, matches, and tournaments.
* If you need to leave your child’s pitch temporarily (e.g., to visit a sibling in another age group), you must inform the Age Group Manager and designate another adult—familiar to your child—to supervise in your absence.
* You must remain contactable by mobile phone in case of any incident or injury.

**Youth Age Groups (Under 12 to Under 16)**

* While players in older age groups may demonstrate greater independence, a designated adult must still be present on-site for all rugby activities.
* The designated adult must be known to the player and must have agreed to undertake this responsibility. For example, a parent may assume responsibility for another player with prior consent.
* Parents must remain contactable by mobile phone throughout the session.

**COLTs (Under 17 and Under 18)**

Although players in this age group may travel independently, they are still legally considered children. Therefore:

* In the event of an incident or injury, parents must either attend immediately or ensure a designated adult—known to the player—is available to do so on their behalf.
* Parents must remain contactable and available during all rugby activities.
* If a player is suspected of sustaining a head injury, **they must not drive**. Parents will be contacted to arrange safe transportation.

**Additional Notes**

Age Group Managers and Lead Coaches may implement further stipulations to suit specific circumstances.

By completing your child’s membership registration, you confirm your agreement to abide by all NMRFC club policies and safeguarding protocols.

We appreciate your continued support in maintaining a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for all our players.

**Yours sincerely,**

Richard Mayer - NMRFC Club Safeguarding Officer

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