



NRLA SAFEGUARDING (CHILD PROTECTION) POLICY

The Nigerian Rugby League Association (NRLA) is unwavering in its commitment to the safeguarding of children. Our objective is to create a community and environment where all children and young people can enjoy, achieve, and feel safe while participating in rugby league.

At all times, the welfare of the child is paramount. The NRLA adheres to the guidelines set forth in the "Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy," which is derived from the "Executive Order (No. EO/AA08 of 2016)." This comprehensive policy guide covers all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

Legal Framework:

This policy is based on the following laws and guidance aimed at protecting children:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1999
- Child's Rights Act, 2003
- Lagos State Child's Rights Law, 2007
- Prevention Against Domestic Violence Law, 2007
- Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011
- The Family Court of Lagos State (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2012
- EO/BRF/005OF2014, Lagos State Sex Offenders Monitoring Programme and Mandated Reporting, 2014

These laws and policies promote four state goals for child protection and safeguarding:

1. **Safety:** All children have the right to live in an environment free from abuse and neglect. The safety of children is the paramount concern that must guide child protection efforts.
2. **Permanency:** Children need a family and a permanent place to call home. A sense of continuity and connectedness is central to children's healthy development.
3. **Health and Well-being:** Children deserve nurturing families and environments in which their physical, emotional, educational, social, and health needs are met.
4. **Safeguarding and Promoting Welfare:** Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children's health or development, ensuring children grow up in



circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and enabling children to have optimum life chances and successfully enter adulthood.

Child protection practices must consider each child's needs and promote the healthy development and sustainability of family relationships and units.

Safeguarding:

In promoting the welfare of children and protecting them from harm, all organisations will seek to keep children in their custody safe by:

1. Valuing them, listening, and protecting them.
2. Creating an environment that encourages children to develop a positive self-image.
3. Encouraging children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy appropriate to their age and stage of development.
4. Providing a safe and secure environment for all children.
5. Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff, and volunteers.
6. Sharing concerns with relevant agencies and involving parents and children appropriately.

Trainings:

1. Individual organisations are responsible for ensuring that their staff and volunteers working with children receive regular training to equip them with the skills and knowledge to understand, identify, and respond to child protection issues. They should be competent and confident in carrying out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.
2. Organisations must ensure that staff are aware of how to recognise and respond to child protection and safeguarding concerns, including signs of possible maltreatment, neglect, or exploitation.
3. Training should be planned to address the learning needs of staff at various levels.
4. All staff and volunteers should have awareness of, and access to, information about local welfare and child-centred agencies, government policies, guidance, and practice related to children's welfare.

Nigeria Rugby League Association

Mob: +44 793 684 6759/ +234 909 139 0297

e-mail: a.adebisi@nigeriarugbyleague.org/ i.lawal@nigeriarugbyleague.org

- <https://nigeriarugbyleague.org/>