



# Guidance on Shirt Names for Children

Wales Rugby League appreciates that some clubs may wish to have player names on the backs of the team shirts. However, it is important that you recognise that having names on the back of children's shirts can lead to potential safeguarding concerns

By having a child's name on the back of their shirt it could provide a potential opportunity for anyone who is intent on developing an unhealthy relationship, 'grooming' with a child and can make it easier for them to identify and contact the child. They may use this knowledge of the child's name to strike up conversations and begin to develop a rapport, leading to them developing a relationship with a child previously unknown to them. Those who do seek to 'groom' children are very clever and the more information that they can collect about a child the easier it will be for them to establish a rapport and begin their process.

At present there are no rules within Rugby League which say that names may not be put on the back of children's shirts. However, if a club does decide that this is something that they wish to do, Wales Rugby League strongly suggest the following guidance and procedures are followed

- Send details to parents/guardians on the proposal to have names on shirts
- Explain the risks involved in having a child's name on a shirt to players/parents/guardians so they can make an informed decision
- Obtain written consent from parents/guardians giving their permission for the names to be on shirts

The above process should be carried out prior to each season

**Please note:** That should any player/parent/guardian object to their or their child's name on the back of shirts. Under no circumstances is the club to put the name on a shirt. Again, this refusal should be in a written format

## National Programmes

At present Wales Rugby League reserve, the right to have a player's name on their playing shirt. This however has been subject to an assessment by the safeguarding lead. With it being for international purposes it has been deemed that the risk is lessened compared to club due to the frequency of matches being greatly reduced leading to less chance of personal details being obtained

## Branding on Shirts

Wales Rugby League would also like to remind all clubs that branding of certain types of products/organisations is not permitted on Child/Junior shirts. These include any form of alcohol brand, tobacco, vape or gambling due to age restrictions

Should you have any concerns on branding please contact safeguarding at Wales Rugby League