



RUNCORN SAXONS FC



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

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Shin Pad Safeguarding Policy

Effective Date: 18 July 2025

Applies To: All Players Aged Under 18

1. Policy Statement

Runcorn Saxons FC is fully committed to providing a safe and protective environment for all players involved in club activities. In response to a recent training ground incident, we are introducing a stricter shin pad policy as part of our safeguarding framework.

This policy is designed to reduce the risk of avoidable injuries and to ensure that all players under the age of 18 are wearing adequate protective equipment in accordance with Runcorn Saxons FC safety standards.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All youth players registered with Runcorn Saxons FC (aged under 18)
- All youth training sessions, matches, and official club activities
- Parents, carers, coaches, and matchday volunteers involved in the youth section

3. Policy Requirements

3.1 Mandatory Shin Pad Use

- Shin pads must be worn at all times during training, friendlies and competitive fixtures
- Players arriving without shin pads will not be permitted to participate in any Runcorn Saxons FC on-field activity

3.2 Prohibited Equipment

- **“Micro” or “Mini” shin pads are strictly prohibited** for U18 players
- These types of pads have been assessed and deemed insufficient in providing adequate coverage and impact protection
- Any player found wearing non-compliant shin pads will be immediately withdrawn from play until suitable equipment is provided

3.3 Approved Shin Pads Must:

- Provide full coverage of the shinbone (from just above the ankle to below the knee)
- Be appropriately sized for the player's leg
- Carry a **CE mark** indicating compliance with European safety standards

4. Responsibilities

- **Parents/Guardians** are responsible for ensuring their child arrives fully equipped, including suitable shin pads
- **Coaches and Team Managers** will not allow a child to engage in any activities if the child is not wearing appropriate shin pads

5. Enforcement

This policy will be enforced without exception. Continued non-compliance will result in temporary suspension from Runcorn Saxons FC activities until the issue is resolved.

6. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the Club Welfare Officer, or earlier if further FA guidance is issued.

7. Supporting Statement

“Shin guards are a mandatory item of a player's equipment and must provide sufficient protection. Wearing inadequately sized or unsafe shin guards increases the risk of injury and does not comply with Runcorn Saxons FC Safeguarding Framework.