

SAFEGUARDING



Safeguarding

"Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm." NSPCC

According to the NSPCC, Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Warning signs - what to look for:

- unexplained changes in behaviour or personality
- becoming withdrawn
- seeming anxious
- becoming uncharacteristically aggressive
- lacks social skills and has few friends, if any
- poor bond or relationship with a parent
- knowledge of adult issues inappropriate for their age
- running away or going missing
- always choosing to wear clothes which cover their body.

Safeguarding - your responsibilities

The welfare of children is our number 1 priority; you can help by:

- Always taking the register
- Recognising the warning signs in child behaviour
- Escalating safeguarding concerns appropriately
- Ensuring children do not leave the pitch, hall or building without a parent / family member

If you have any concerns about player welfare:

It is vital that you DO NOT SPEAK to the person(s) you believe to be the potential cause of the child welfare issue. This could be a Parent, Guardian, Family member or Coach

You must:

- Speak to your Manager and...
- Complete the safeguarding form on your coach page - www.lovesfootball.com/coachcentral

Or...

- contact Childline on 0800 1111 or childline.org.uk
- contact NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or nspcc.org.uk
- contact the Police on 999 (if you are concerned about their immediate safety)

Remember: you could be the most important person in the child's life

No action, is an action in itself

IF IN DOUBT, CALL IT OUT

Safeguarding Policy

LOVES FOOTBALL FOOTBALL CLUB SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

1. LOVES FOOTBALL

Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person and is committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that a child is anyone under the age of 18 and subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

LOVES FOOTBALL

Football Club endorses and adopts the following key safeguarding principles:

- the child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;
- all children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their; age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity;
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
- working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential. We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

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Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

2. LOVES FOOTBALL

Football Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook [TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook](https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook)) apply to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including coaches/managers, volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, or medical staff or other club officials/helpers.

3. We endorse and adopt The FA's Safer Recruitment guidelines and we will:

- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves;
- Request identification documents;
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them;
- Ask for and follow up with two references before appointing someone; and
- Where eligible require an FA-accepted DBS enhanced with barred list Check, in line with The FA's current Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations.

All current LOVES FOOTBALL

Football Club members working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as coaches/managers and physiotherapists, are required to hold an in-date FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check as part of safer recruitment practice.