



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

Every child, young person and vulnerable adult who plays or participates in sport should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in sports, thus everyone involved at our club is required to endorse and adhere to our Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults who play or participate in sport by protecting them from abuse and harm. We are committed to working to provide a safe environment for all children, young people and vulnerable adults to participate in sport to the best of their abilities for as long as they choose to do so.

We recognise that the terms 'child, young person or vulnerable adult', 'abuse' and 'harm' are open to interpretation and challenge but for the purpose of this Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy they are defined as follows:

A child or young person shall be defined as:

'anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.'

A vulnerable adult shall be defined as:

'a person aged 18 or over'

'who are receiving or may need community care services because of learning, physical or mental disability, age, or illness'

'who are or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation'

Abuse shall be defined as:

'a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons and, for the purposes of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, shall include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, bullying and hazing.'

Harm shall be defined as:

'ill treatment and forms of ill treatment (including sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment which are not physical) and also the impairment of or an avoidable deterioration in physical or mental health and the impairment of physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.'

'Harm' may be caused by acts of commission and acts of omission.

Our Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy also addresses verbal abuse and bullying of youngsters and vulnerable adults by parents and coaches on the side-lines.

Our Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy principles are that:

- The child's or adult's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, race, faith, belief or sexual orientation;
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children, young people, vulnerable adults and their parents and carers is essential.

We are committed to working in partnership with external organisations and in accordance with their procedures. This is essential to enable these organisations to carry out their statutory duties to investigate concerns and protect all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Our Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy is in response to government legislation and guidance, developed to safeguard the welfare and development of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

We have an appointed Welfare Officer at the club who abides by the Code of Conduct and this appointment is in line with certain affiliation requirements.

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