

FPCA Football Club – Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Introduction

FPCA Football Club is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for all players, especially children and We acknowledge our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child connected to our club, and we fully endorse and adopt Our mission is to ensure that every child can participate in football free from harm, fear, and discrimination—regardless of background

2. Our Responsibilities

As an England Football Accredited Club:

- We recognise that players under the age of 18 are legally children, including those playing in open-age teams.
- We will always prioritise the welfare of the child as the paramount concern.
- We are committed to protecting children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, bullying, and poor practice.
- We will ensure children's voices are heard and considered in decisions that affect them.

3. Safer Recruitment

In line with FA guidelines, we will:

- Clearly define all volunteer and staff roles
- Interview and screen candidates appropriately
- Request and follow up on references
- Require enhanced DBS checks with Barred List for all eligible roles
- Keep safeguarding qualifications up to date

4. Whistleblowing

We support The FA's Whistleblowing Policy. Concerns about the behaviour of someone in a position of trust can be reported - The FA Safeguarding Team: safeguarding@thefa.com

- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Police or Local Children's Services in serious cases

5. Bullying

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at FPCA Football Club. We will:

- Respond quickly and appropriately to all incidents
- Support the affected player(s)
- Take disciplinary action against persistent or serious offenders
- Escalate matters to the County FA where needed

6. Codes of Conduct & Behaviour

All club members must follow our Respect Code of Conduct. This ensures:

- All children are treated with respect and dignity
- Coaches behave as positive role models
- Clear and fair boundaries are in place

7. Reporting a Concern

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Concerns about a child's welfare or behaviour must be reported.

Contact:

- Club Welfare Officer – cwo@fpcafootballclub.co.uk
- Chairman – chairman@fpcafootballclub.co.uk

Or contact external authorities for serious matters.

8. Education and Awareness

We ensure all staff and volunteers are regularly updated on:

- FA safeguarding training
- Signs of abuse or neglect
- Importance of listening to children
- How to report and respond to concerns

9. Review and Implementation

This policy is reviewed annually by the club committee.

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at club meetings.

All members are given access to this policy at registration.

10. Further Resources

- The FA Safeguarding Hub: www.thefa.com/safeguarding
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- Childline: 0800 1111