



National Football Youth League

Safeguarding Policy

It is the aim of the National Football Youth League (NFYL) to ensure that every young person who plays football within the NFYL should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any footballing activity (including match officials). We subscribe to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

All adults associated with this 'league' are to safeguard the welfare of all players and where possible protect them from physical, sexual and emotional harm and from neglect and bullying. In striving to attain this the National Football Youth League's aims are as follows:

- To ensure that the young person's welfare is always considered as paramount
- The NFYL will have a designated League Welfare Officer
- All young people involved in football have a right to be protected from abuse and harm regardless of their sporting ability, age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation
- The NFYL will treat all suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice seriously and will respond swiftly and appropriately.
- To ensure all member clubs adhere to the FA's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures for Affiliated Clubs and provide the league with the name of the designated welfare officer for each club.
- All clubs must keep safeguarding policies and procedures up to date.
- To ensure that all member clubs adopt an anti bullying policy in line with the FA !RESPECT anti-bullying policy.
- To ensure that all member clubs adhere to their club policies and to the FA RESPECT recommended guidelines in relation to photographs and videos.

The National Football Youth League 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 Football Associations Child Protection Regulation (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:

- Develop a role profile
- Request identification documents
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
- Request and follow up with 2 references before appointing
- Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines

All current National Football Youth League members with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure via The FA CRB Unit. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of the National Football Youth League guidance will be sought from The Football Association. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via The FA CRB Unit Enhanced CRB Disclosure and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people. It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

The National Football Youth League supports The FA's Whistle blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Child Protection Team on 0207 745 4787, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, 25 Soho Square, W1D 4FA or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Services or the NSPCC.

The National Football Youth League encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.

The National Football Youth League has appointed a League Welfare Officer (LWO) in line with the FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer Training provided by The FA and/or CFA. The LWO is the first point of contact for all league committee members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The LWO will liaise directly with the CFA Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice and abuse amongst CWO and their members and league committee members.

We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our league. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the League Welfare Officer or alternatively in cases of serious bullying we may contact the CFA Welfare Officer.

Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by the National Football Youth League. In order to validate these Respect codes of conduct the league has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the CFA in more serious circumstances. All registering clubs will be required to adopt the Respect codes.

Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns — no action is not an option.

1. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the League Welfare Officer.
2. If the issue is one of poor practice they will either:
 - deal with the matter themselves or
 - seek advice from the County FA Welfare Officer
3. If the concern is more serious — possible child abuse they will where possible contact the County FA League Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services.
4. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your County FA Welfare Officer know what action you have taken.
5. If at any time you are not able to contact your LWO or the matter is serious then you can either:
 - contact your County FA Welfare Officer directly or
 - call The FA/NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or
 - contact the Police or Children's Services

Getting further advice and reporting concerns



The National Football Youth League Welfare Officer is Steve Poole. Steve can be contacted at safeguarding@nfyl.co.uk



The Football Association is English football's governing body and the National Football Youth League's sanctioning authority. For up to date safeguarding in football information please visit their website www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding. Safeguarding concerns can be reported to The FA's Safeguarding Team by emailing safeguarding@thefa.com.



Their Safeguarding Team can be contacted by emailing

safeguarding@premierleague.com or by calling 0207 864 9000 for advice, each of our member club's that is linked to a Premier League Club will have a safeguarding team in the first instance.

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Childline is a free and confidential service for children and young people up to their 19th birthday. They are available any time, day or night. You can contact them by phone, by email or through their 1-2-1 counsellor chat service. Visit their website for further advice or support www.childline.org.uk.



Adults can obtain advice or share their concerns about a child by contacting the NSPCC helpline by calling 0808 800 5000 or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk. Trained professionals are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This can be an anonymous service. In an emergency and/or if someone is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999 (101 for non-emergencies)



Advice on internet safety and safe surfing can be found at www.thinkuknow.co.uk. There is a confidential service for reporting online concerns to report online abuse.

ann craft trust

acting against abuse

The Ann Craft Trust safeguarding adults advice helpline is 0115 951 5400.



Child Protection in Sport Unit
play sport stay safe
enjoy and achieve

The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) is a partnership between the NSPCC, Sport England, Sport Northern Ireland and Sport Wales. The CPSU provide expert safeguarding and child protection advice to sports organisations and supports them with putting the right safeguards in place. Their website hosts a helpful resource library: <https://thecpsu.org.uk>