



Farncombe Youth Football Club

Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures

1. **Farncombe Youth Football Club** (the Club) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any Club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.
2. The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are that:
 - 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, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.
 - All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
 - 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. The Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in the Club.

3. The 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 Football Association's 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.
4. We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers who are not already members of the Club 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 conduct interviews before appointing;
 - Request and follow up with two references before appointing them;
 - Require a FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA policy.

All current Club members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of children and young people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure via The FA CRB Unit¹.

If there are any concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of the Club, 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.

5. The Club supports The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0844 980 8200 extension 4787, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW10 9EQ, or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC. The Club encourages everyone to know about the Whistle Blowing Policy and utilise it if necessary.
6. The Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) 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 County FA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members regarding any concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The CWO will liaise directly with the County FA 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 their club members.
7. We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable in our Club. 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 CWO or alternatively, in cases of serious bullying, we may contact the County FA Welfare Officer.
8. **Respect** codes of conduct for players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by The Club. In order to validate these **Respect** codes of conduct, the Club 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 County FA in more serious circumstances.
9. 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.
 - If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.
 - If the issue is one of poor practice, the Club Welfare Officer will either:
 - deal with the matter themselves, or
 - seek advice from the County FA Welfare Officer.
 - If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse – where possible, contact the County FA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
 - 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 Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken; they in turn will inform the County FA Welfare Officer.
 - If, at any time, you are not able to contact the Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious, then you can either:
 - contact the County FA Welfare Officer directly,

- contact the Police or Children's Social Care, or
- call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

NB – The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures is available via www.thefa.com/footballsafe. Click on 'Safeguarding Children – Downloads' under 'Related Links'. The policy outlines in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams which describe this process. How to make a referral is also covered in the Safeguarding Children workshop. Participants are given the opportunity to discuss how this feels and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation. For more information on this workshop contact the Surrey Football Association Welfare Officer.

10. Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from

- Farncombe Youth Football Club's Welfare Officer, Rachel Gray (fyfccwo@gmail.com);
- Surrey Football Association's Welfare Officer on 01372 384745, email countywo@surreyfa.com;
- www.TheFA.com/Footballsafe;
- emailing Footballsafe@TheFA.com;
- The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line on 0845 210 8080.

¹ The policy on CRB Enhanced Disclosures will be subject to change, in light of relevant legislation. Further information will be provided on this via TheFA.com and via the Surrey FA Welfare Officer.