



Lancing FC Youth Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Lancing FC Youth 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.

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 or 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.

Lancing FC Youth recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

2. Lancing FC Youth 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 Safeguarding Children Regulation (see The FA Handbook <https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook>) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those who are volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, football coaches, club officials or medical staff.
3. We endorse and adopt The FA's Safeguarding Children Guidelines for Recruiting Volunteers and 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 two references before appointing.
 - Where eligible require an FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check, in line with The FA's current Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations



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- All current Lancing FC Youth 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.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Lancing FC Youth Football Club, guidance will be sought from County Football Association (CFA).

The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the DBS process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and 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.

4. Lancing FC Youth 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 Manager on 0800 169 1863, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing Safeguarding@TheFA.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

Lancing FC Youth encourages everyone to know about the FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and utilise it if necessary.

5. Lancing FC Youth has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children Workshop. The post holder will be involved with designated person's training provided by The FA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members and parents or guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. They will liaise directly with the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.
6. We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players, parents or guardians should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO or, in cases of serious bullying,



Respect

Lose Respect
Lose the game



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contact the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (Safeguarding@SussexFA.com / 01903 768578).

7. Codes of Conduct for Players, Parents or Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Lancing Youth Football Club. In order to validate these Codes of Conduct the club has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by leagues or the CFA in more serious circumstances. All prospective members will be informed of these Codes.
8. At Lancing FC Youth, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option. If anyone is worried about a child, it is important that they report their concerns to the CWO, who will deal with reported concerns as follows:
 - a) Our CWO will manage poor practice and where necessary seek advice from the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO).
 - b) Our CWO will make referrals about more serious concerns to the CFA DSO, or in an emergency contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
 - c) We will ensure that if the child needs immediate medical treatment that we take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them it is a child protection concern.
 - d) Our CWO will keep records of the actions taken and keep the CFA DSO informed.
9. If at any time our Club Welfare Officer is not available, or the matter is clearly serious, all our members should be aware that they can:
 - a) Contact the CFA DSO directly
 - b) Contact The FA's Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or Safeguarding@TheFA.com
 - c) Contact the Police or Children's Social Care
 - d) Call the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

Signed:

M. Lockwood

B. Carey

F. McNealy

Matt Lockwood

Brendan Carey

Fiona McNealy

Chairman

Club Secretary

Club Welfare Officer (CWO)

25/01/2022

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