



## **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**

### 1. Introduction

Safeguarding is defined as protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health and/or development, ensuring that children grow up in the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

### **Safeguarding Policy Statement, Principles and Aims**

**Statement** - Safeguarding is everybody's business. Grassroots Soccer recognises that it has a moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils.

All coaching staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for children in which they can learn and coaches are well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour and failure to develop, because they have daily contact with children.

Grassroots Soccer 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 (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

### 2. The key principles of Grassroots Child Protection 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, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.
- 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.

Grassroots Soccer recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3. Grassroots 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.

4. We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers 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 interview people before appointing them.
- ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone.
- where eligible require it adheres to this policy in full. Having a proactive safeguarding lead is an integral requirement of this policy.

Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust with football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team 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](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com) or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC. Football Club encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

6) Grassroots has appointed a safeguarding lead in line with keeping children safe in education, 2018. [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/550511/Keeping\\_children\\_safe\\_in\\_education.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf) and Working together with children.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419595/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)

Grassroots Lead Safeguarding Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Lead Safeguarding Officer will liaise directly with the County FA (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 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 at 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 Lead Safeguarding officer in cases of serious bullying the LSO may be contacted.

8. Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/ Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Football 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 Lead Safeguarding 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 Lead Safeguarding Officer. If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, where possible, contact the CFA 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 Lead Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer. If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:

- contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly
- contact The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com)
- contact the Police or Children's Social Care
- call the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) NB – The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via – [www.TheFA.com/footballrules-governance/safeguarding](http://www.TheFA.com/footballrules-governance/safeguarding) – click on 'Raising Awareness – Best Practice Downloads', the Policy and Procedures document is within the resources area. 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 your County Welfare Officer. 10. Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:
- County Football Association's Welfare Officer [TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/ safeguarding](http://TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding)
- Emailing – [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com)
- The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0845 210 8080

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/policy-downloads>

Policy Review - Paul Deller is responsible for reviewing the safeguarding and child protection policy and ensuring that it is compliant with current legislation and good practice. Also for ensuring that the school maintains an up-to-date list of key contacts and that related policies and procedures are kept up-to-date. The next policy review will be on the 29/07/21.

Grassroots and JW19 Soccer

First point of Contact lead coach

Second point of contact – Keith Fenwick Safeguarding Officer 07791 112946

Third point of contact – Paul Deller Head coach 07735 466075