



Safeguarding Code of Conduct – Volunteers

Introduction

The Amateur Football Alliance takes its role as a provider of football for under-18s very seriously. Their well-being is paramount in all decisions taken by us. All children and young people we come into contact with have the same protection regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity.

The County also commits to safeguarding adults at risk of harm.

We act in accordance with legislation, statutory guidance and The FA's Policies and Procedures and any associated guidance and we work collaboratively with The FA in relation to concerns about the safeguarding of children or young people or adults at risk.

Who this Code of Conduct applies to

This Code of Conduct applies to all volunteers, as all of us have a key role in safeguarding.

Volunteer obligations

It is our expectation that all our volunteers sign this Code of Conduct and will at all times act in the best interests of children and young people under the age of 18 and in accordance with The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures. The welfare of children and young people must always be paramount.

We also expect our volunteers to act in the best interests of adults at risk of harm in football and to follow reporting procedures.

This includes an expectation that volunteers will:

- undertake safeguarding education or training required by the CFA;
- read and comply with The FA's Safeguarding Policy and our safeguarding procedures for adults and children;
- obtain and maintain an FA in date DBS check (less than three years since the date of issue) if working in regulated activity with under-18s;
- act in an appropriate way at all times when in contact with children and young people, and adults at risk whether face to face, via social media, phone or other electronic communications and in line with the CFA Social Media Policy;
- recognise the importance of confidentiality when working with children, young people, their families and their data;
- recognize the importance of confidentiality when working with adults at risk and their data;
- promptly report any concerns about safeguarding or the protection of children or young people or adults at risk in football to our Designated Safeguarding Officer or the Senior Safeguarding Lead or other nominated person or persons in their joint absence;

- be familiar with and use the whistle-blowing policy if you suspect or believe that we have not properly addressed any safeguarding concerns;
- accept that, by taking this role, this County FA may deem you to be in a relationship of trust with under-18 participants and adults at risk that you are in contact with through your role. You should be aware of and understand the responsibility that this entails, by undertaking the relevant safeguarding education, as we deem appropriate;
- act with integrity at all times; and
- seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Officer or the Senior Safeguarding Lead if you are unsure about any of the above or if you are unsure how to act in any given situation.

Further information and support

Further information can be found in:

- our Staff Handbook;
- The FA's Best Practice guides;
- The FA's Policy and Procedures.

Alternatively, if you have any queries or concerns regarding the Code of Conduct or safeguarding generally, please speak to our Designated Safeguarding Officer or the Senior Safeguarding Lead in the first instance.

Please sign¹ and return a duplicate copy of this Code of Conduct to acknowledge you have read and understand the Code of Conduct and you agree to comply with it. You should then keep the other copy safe for your records.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct are taken seriously and could lead to you being unable to volunteer with us and/or the involvement of the statutory agencies and The FA.

¹ Signing the Code of Conduct is a requirement of being a volunteer with us; not signing will mean you cannot be involved.

I have read, understood and agree to comply with this Safeguarding Code of Conduct – Volunteers.

Signed

Name

Date

Guidance note: Reference to Adults at Risk, in Safeguarding Codes of Conduct for Volunteers and Staff

Safeguarding adults in disability football

For the season 2018/19, the Codes of Conduct include adults at risk of harm.

Open age disability football should be safe and enjoyable for all.

However, we need to be aware that the abuse of adults can and does happen and football needs to play its part in preventing, recognising, reporting and addressing concerns, because safeguarding adults at risk is everybody's business.

An adult is someone over 18, so the safeguarding children procedures should be applied if there are any concerns about the welfare of an under-18 even if that person is playing in open age disability football.

In 2014 the term vulnerable adults was replaced by 'adult at risk'. An adult at risk is someone who is over 18 and:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs); and
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

Adults with care and support needs include people who have a condition as a result of physical, mental, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities or illnesses, substance misuse or brain injury.

There are differences between safeguarding adults and safeguarding children including:

- the rights of adults;
- types of abuse, signs and indicators;
- the involvement of the adult in safeguarding plans and actions;
- laws, guidance and football regulations.

Adults have a right to self-determination, to make their own choices and their own mistakes. Adults should be involved in and consulted about anything that concerns them.

However there are also similarities and these include reporting all safeguarding concerns to the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer or in their absence to their deputies. This is the case even when the adult does not wish for a report to be made. Reassure the adult that their wishes will be taken into account but that you have a duty to report.

The County DSO can seek help and advice from The FA Safeguarding Team.

The code of conduct content applies to children and young people and adults at risk in disability football. Further resources on safeguarding adults will be available via the safeguarding section of The FA website.

