

LET'S KEEP OUR GAME SAFE

SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT PACK



RESPECT





Keeping Football Safe & Enjoyable



Every child or vulnerable person who plays or takes part in football should be able to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult in football.

Our collective role is to create a fun and safe experience for children and other vulnerable people in football and where concerns come to light, whether they are about someone in football or the person's wider life, then to report these concerns to the appropriate authorities.

How we work to keep you safe



Training and Qualifications

All Club and League Welfare Officers have undertaken safeguarding and welfare workshops and have a criminal records check.

We also provide FA coaching qualifications, safeguarding children workshops and first aid along with referee courses.

We work hard to make sure staff and volunteers continue to improve through an extensive training programme.

The certified courses currently available are as follows:

Safeguarding for all

This new online course provides a basic overview of how to safeguard children, looking specifically at best practice, poor practice, and abuse topics. If you are under 18, it will also explain how to safeguard yourself.

Safeguarding Adults

This module explores the meaning of safeguarding adults and adults at risk. It looks at:

- The context of abuse - and the signs and Indicators
- How to report concerns
- How to use safeguards to reduce risk of harm

Safeguarding for Committee Members

This course will support you, as a Committee Member, to Identify your individual and collective responsibility in safeguarding, so as a team you create an environment where the wellbeing of children and young people (under 18s) is central to all that you do

Safeguarding Children Workshop

Providing club representatives, coaches, referees and volunteers with an awareness of best practice in safeguarding children in football

Welfare Officers Workshop (WOW)

Building on the Safeguarding Children Workshop, focusing on the specifics of the role, what is required, and the key tools needed to carry out the role



Online Safeguarding Children Re-certification

This free online course is available to anyone who needs to renew their Safeguarding Children training. If you are a coach with a youth team then you must update your safeguarding training every three years

Vetting and Supervision

All staff and volunteers who work in a role that involves regular and direct contact with children or vulnerable people are subject to a criminal records check.

Criminal records checks are completed every three years and failure to comply will lead to suspension.

Safeguarding Operating Standards (SOS)

As part of our membership to and funding agreement with The FA, Oxfordshire FA goes through a rigorous, mandatory annual safeguarding audit led by an independent team of former police officers. This process ensures we are complying fully with the latest FA and legal safeguarding requirements. County FA's found to not comply can face sanctions and even suspension of activity for significant breaches.

Compliance Monitoring & Visits

As part of the aforementioned SOS audit all County FA's are required to review the compliance of all their member clubs providing football for Under 18s. An initial desktop review is carried out to ensure all relevant club representatives have the appropriate, in-date qualifications and DBS checks. This review is followed up by unannounced visits to club matches and training sessions to ensure the registered coaches are present and speak with parents and volunteers. Following these assessments we work with our clubs to identify any issues and support them to put processes in place to rectify any shortfalls.

Find out more about what we do and access resources on our website: www.OxfordshireFA.com





Whistle-blowing

Whistle-blowing can be used as an early warning system or when it's recognised that appropriate actions have not been taken. This approach or policy is adopted in many different walks of life.

It is about revealing and raising concerns over misconduct or malpractice within an organisation or within an independent structure associated with it.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can also use whistle-blowing by calling 0800 169 1863 and asking for The FA's Safeguarding Team, or via email on safeguarding@TheFA.com.

Alternatively you can go direct the Police or Children's Social Care and report your concerns there, or to the Child Protection in Sport Unit via cpsu@nspcc.org.uk or the NSPCC Helpline via **0808 800 5000** or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk



Welfare Officers



Every sport has a responsibility to ensure they provide a safe and fun environment for children and young people. Through the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme, the government makes it very clear that sport has to put safeguards in place. Football, along with other sports believe the best way to do this is to appoint a Welfare Officer.

What does a Welfare Officer do?

Welfare Officers have key roles: Be informed and aware of the league or club's responsibilities when running football activities for children and young people:

- Ensuring these responsibilities are well understood by others.
- Developing best practice processes.
- Helping to make sure trips away are organised properly.
- Helping league and club personnel understand their 'duty of care' towards children and young people.
- Ensuring all relevant people complete The FA's 'Safeguarding Children' training programme.
- Compliance of FA CRB checks.

For more information on what is expected of sport in terms of safeguarding children, go to www.thecpsu.org.uk or www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-matters

Football accepts it has a clear responsibility towards young people. Making sure everyone knows how to report concerns about a child's welfare is essential. Knowing how to deal with poor practice issues is also vital. Find out who your Welfare Officer is by contacting your club/league or Oxfordshire FA.





Respect

Parents

Parents have a big responsibility as part of the Respect programme. Respect is working to eradicate touchline abuse in football, and parents can play their part by agreeing to, and signing, their club's Code of Conduct. Parents also have a responsibility for their children's behaviour. The players will also be asked to sign a Code of Conduct, and parents can encourage their children to adhere to the players' code.

Referees

Referees need to work in partnership with the clubs they officiate, in particular with the captains on the pitch when managing player behaviour. Vitally, referees can provide post-match feedback regarding the behaviour of players, parents, coaches and other spectators, to help the clubs enforce their Codes of Conduct.

Players

Players are asked to sign a Code of Conduct to 'promise' to abide by a set of rules governing their behaviour as a player. Working together with the coach, captain and matchday referee, players have a major role to play to ensure a positive environment on this pitch—and off it.

Players are asked to shake hands with the

opposition and match officials pre- and post-match in a spirit of fair play.

Clubs

Clubs can sign up to and enforce Codes of Conduct for their players, coaches, parents and spectators, which will set the standard for behaviour throughout their club. It is important that clubs take action if Codes are broken to send out a clear message that negative behaviour will not be tolerated.

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children and vulnerable people can learn and enjoy the game. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct.

Coaches

Coaches have a hugely important role to play in Respect, as they are not only responsible for their own behaviour, but they can also influence that of their players and spectators too. On a matchday, coaches are expected to work with players, parents and other spectators to allow the referee to manage the game without being subjected to abuse.

www.TheFA.com/get-involved/respect

Safeguarding Expectations



This sets out the expectations of how adults should behave around children and other vulnerable people, manage and mitigate the risk of harm to participants and report their concerns.

If you are a volunteer and a child, vulnerable person or parent discloses a concern:

Ask a few questions

Let them talk, don't become an investigator, simply clarify what they have said.

Stay Calm

It will help the immediate situation.

Remove them from further harm

Get to a safe place and seek medical help if required.

Make a note

Record what has been said if you can, Noting the facts and not your opinion.

Reassure

Take them seriously - they have done the right thing to tell someone and it's not their fault.

Don't make promises 'not to tell'

If it is serious, you will have to tell someone who can help.

Contact the Club/League or County Welfare Officer

If it a serious concern, contact the police or children's services.

Be patient

We will try to keep you informed when possible but be aware we must act in a way that protects those involved.

Useful Contacts



Oxfordshire FA cover a number of Local Authority areas together with one Police force. Listed below are contact details for agencies who should be able to assist with early intervention for both Adult and Children safeguarding issues:

Police



Thames Valley Police

Non-emergency - 101

Emergency - 999

Local Authorities



Cherwell District Council

Bodicote House,
Bodicote,
Banbury,
Oxfordshire, OX15 4AA
01295 227001

www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/5/your-council/478/contact-us



Oxford City Council

St Aldate's Chambers
109 St Aldate's
Oxford, OX1 1DS
01865 249811

www.oxford.gov.uk/contact



South Oxfordshire District Council

135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Milton
OX14 4SB
01235 422422

www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/about-the-council/get-in-touch/contact-us/



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

West Oxfordshire District Council

Council Offices
Witney
OX28 1NB
01993 861000

www.westoxon.gov.uk/contact-us



Harm & Abuse

Everyone at Oxfordshire FA has a key role in keeping children and other vulnerable people safe and help to protect them from abuse or harm. If anyone fails to meet these expectations, please let us know.

Types of abuse are identified below:

Sexual

A child or vulnerable person is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities. This doesn't have to be physical contact and it can happen online. Sometimes they won't understand that what's happening to them is abuse. They may not even understand that it's wrong. Or they may be afraid to speak out.

Physical

Physical abuse is deliberately hurting a child or vulnerable person causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts. It isn't accidental - people who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit, kicked, poisoned, burned, slapped or having objects thrown at them.

Grooming

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child or vulnerable person to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Someone can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age.

Don't forget, many of the things mentioned here have the potential to happen online as well in person. If you are concerned about bullying or abuse (including that which might be happening to another person) then please talk to the Club/ League Welfare Officer or the Designated Safeguarding Officer at Oxfordshire FA.

Neglect

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child or vulnerable person's basic needs. They may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care. They may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm.

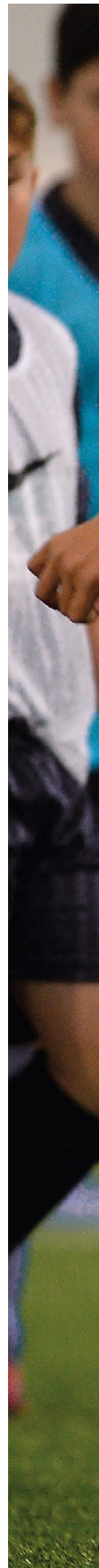
Bullying

Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else - such as name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone. It can happen anywhere - at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt someone both physically and emotionally.

Emotional

Emotional abuse is the ongoing emotional maltreatment of a child or vulnerable person. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a person's emotional health and development. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate someone or isolating or ignoring them.

If you feel a child or vulnerable person is at risk of immediate or significant harm, contact the police →







Local Safeguarding Boards



Local Safeguarding Boards are multi-agency bodies set up in every local authority. Each board has an independent Chair, that is, someone who doesn't work for social services.

The role of the LSCB is to:

- Coordinate what is done by everyone on the LSCB to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area
- Make sure that each organisation acts effectively when they are doing this.

The LSCB publishes policies and procedures for their area.

Children



Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

The OSCB aims to keep children in Oxfordshire as safe as possible by making sure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding through training, learning and local resources.

Website - www.oscb.org.uk

Phone – 01865 815843

Email – oscb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Twitter - @OSCB6

Adults



Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) is a multi-agency partnership that promotes the development of adult safeguarding work throughout Oxfordshire.

Website - www.osab.co.uk

Email – OSAB@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Mental Health



One in four people will experience a mental health problem in any year. Over 10% of the population have depression at any one time. There are millions of people involved in grassroots football, right now, with mental health problems.

Like physical health we all have mental health too. Just as our bodies can become unwell, so can our minds. As with our physical health, having a mental health problem can affect us all regardless of age, race, religion or income level. It is not the result of personal weakness or lack of character.

Mental health problems cover a range of conditions involving changes in emotion, thinking or behaviour (or a combination of these). The experiences and symptoms of no two individuals are the same – we're all unique and so are the mental health problems we may encounter.

The most common mental health problems you are likely to encounter in football are anxiety and depression, or a mixture of the two. However, there's a wide range of conditions or problems which fall within the scope of mental health problems.

If you think someone you come into contact with is experiencing a mental health problem, follow the **ALERT** acronym to support them:

ASK discreetly if they want to talk about it. If they say yes, then it's about finding the right setting – somewhere private where the person feels comfortable and equal, e.g. a café or football club bar/function room when quiet. Don't worry about asking someone directly about how they're feeling. There is no evidence that asking sensitive questions makes the situation worse. Instead, the simple act of being asked and being able to talk about how you are feeling is much more likely to be helpful.

LISTEN attentively. Ask simple, open and non-judgmental questions. Let the person explain in their own words how they're feeling. Try not to assume you already know what may have caused their feelings, or what will help.

ENCOURAGE people to seek advice, where appropriate. You're not expected to be a mental health professional.

REASSURE the person that they're not alone. Seeking help can feel lonely, and sometimes scary. Let them know there is support out there – and that you can help signpost them to the help they may need.

TELL a specialist person if you think urgent action is needed.

More support and information can be found here:

The FA: <https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/policies/equality/mental-health>

Mind: InfoLine: 0300 123 3393 The Mind Infoline can Website: www.mind.org.uk

Samaritans: 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 (free from any phone).

SANeline: 0300 304 7000 (4.30pm–10.30pm every day).

HeadsUp: For immediate support text HeadsUp to 85258 to chat by text to a trained and supervised volunteer. Free, confidential and available 24/7.

CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably): 0800 58 58 58 (5.00pm to midnight, 365 days a year)



Sudden Cardiac Arrest



The FA has launched a free online module to raise awareness and knowledge of sudden cardiac arrests in football.

The module will enable you to recognise and respond appropriately to a sudden cardiac arrest while also providing you with key facts and information.

Available online, you can complete it at a convenient time and place. Plus, it only takes one hour!

Upon completion, you'll receive one hour of CPD and an FA certificate.

Research shows that 12 young people lose a life each week in the UK and those with an inherited heart condition can be up to three times as likely to suffer a sudden cardiac arrest if they participate in intensive or strenuous exercise.

What's more, at least five fatalities occurred during football matches or training over the last year in England due to cardiac arrest, including former England international Ugo Ehiogu, who died whilst working as coach at Tottenham Hotspur FC.

Dr Lisa Hodgson, The FA's medical education lead, said: "The FA is passionate about raising the awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and highlighting the fact that this can occur in what appears to essentially be, from the outside, a fit and healthy young person playing sport.

"Sudden cardiac arrest is infrequent but it is not a rare event.

"The more awareness we can raise on this issue, the greater is the chance of early recognition and lifesaving intervention being performed.

"We would like as many people as possible to complete this module and to share it among their peers.

"Everyone should be taught these lifesaving skills in all walks of life, not just in sport and we hope that this module helps to do just that."

To access the course use the below link:
<https://thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications>

Safeguarding at Oxfordshire FA



Safeguarding in Oxfordshire


Supported by a network of dedicated
Club and League Welfare Officers
and the Designated Safeguarding
Officer.

Call us on (01993) 778586

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OFA Designated Safeguarding Officer
(DSO)
Nigel.Saverton@OxfordshireFA.com
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Tom Edwards
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Safeguarding@OxfordshireFA.com

We only  do positive.



Building society with mutual respect

Oxfordshire

FA



RESPECT