



# Safeguarding Children Policy Statement

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## RATIONALE

Every child who plays football should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football. We recognise, however, that child abuse is also a very emotive and difficult subject. It is important to understand the feelings involved but not to allow them to interfere with our judgement about any action to be taken.

The Sussex County Football Association recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect and bullying.

It is determined to meet its obligation to ensure that those clubs and organisations providing football opportunities for children and young people do so to the highest possible standard of care.

Clear practices and procedures, in addition to a detailed training programme already under way, will ensure that everyone knows exactly what is expected of them in relation to the protection of children and young people within our sport.

## POLICY STATEMENT

It is essential that those children attracted to and participating in football do so in a quality, safe and enjoyable environment.

In striving to attain this, The Sussex County Football Association has the following objectives:

1. All bodies affiliated to The Football Association as Charter Standard Organisations, affiliated through the County Associations, which provide the opportunity to work with children up to the age of eighteen must include in their rules a policy statement on safeguarding children.
2. Charter Standard Organisations must ensure every volunteer who has unsupervised access to children must undertake a CRB disclosure via The FA CRB unit.
3. To provide ongoing development and training to all organisations as mentioned above.
4. To work in conjunction with Discipline to ensure a joined up approach.
5. To provide ongoing development and training:

\* for members of The Football Association Coaches Association

\* as an integral part of all Football Association Coach and Medical Education

the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

3. Upon receipt by The Association of:-

3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or

3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, social services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or

3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 2 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:-

4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;

4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;

4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.

5. The period of an order referred to in 2 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.

6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 2 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

7. Where a person is convicted or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football for such period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.

9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable