



## The Amateur Football Alliance Safeguarding Policy



### **The purpose of this policy statement is:**

- to protect children and young people who are involved in football with the AFA.
- to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of the AFA, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

**A child or young person** shall be defined as 'anyone who has not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday'.

**Abuse** shall be defined as 'a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons and, for the purposes of safeguarding children, shall include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, bullying and hazing.

**Harm** shall be defined as 'ill treatment and forms of ill treatment (including sexual abuse and forms of ill treatment which are not physical) and also the impairment of physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.' Harm may be caused by acts of commission and acts of omission.

### **The AFA believe that:**

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them

### **The AFA recognise that:**

- The welfare of the child is always paramount
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must and will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

**As part of our safeguarding policy the AFA will:**

- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

**We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually or in the following circumstances:**

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As required by the Safeguarding Children Partnerships and/or the FA.

This policy was last reviewed on: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

By: Dyahanne Sappleton

Role: Designated Safeguarding Officer

Signed:



Date: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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