



## THE AMATUER FOOTBALL ALLIANCE'S POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK

**For the purpose of this Policy the following definitions apply:**

### 1. **Adult at Risk**<sup>1</sup>

Means any adult who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental health issues, learning or physical disability, sensory impairment, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of him/herself or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or serious exploitation.

### 2. **Abuse**

Abuse is defined as a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. It includes acts of commission (such as an assault) and acts of omission (situations where the environment fails to prevent harm). Abuse may be single act or omission or series of acts or omissions.

### 3. **Capacity**<sup>2</sup>

Capacity refers to an individual adult's ability to take a specific decision or take a particular action at a particular time even if they are able or not able to make other decisions at other times. The starting point should be that the person has capacity to decide unless it can be established that they cannot do so.

## **POLICY**

The Amateur Football Alliance (AFA) is committed to football being inclusive and providing a safe and positive experience for every adult participant involved in the game regardless of age, gender, gender reassignment, disability, culture, language, race, faith, belief, or sexual orientation.

The AFA recognises that some adult participants some may need additional safeguards and/or protection. These adults are referred to as Adults at Risk.

The AFA recognises its responsibility to safeguard and protect Adults at Risk, and to respond appropriately to any allegations or suspicions of abuse. Everyone who works with Adults at Risk has a responsibility to commit to this.

If abuse is suspected, or reported, The AFA will work in partnership with the Adult at Risk wherever possible, depending on their capacity and the risk to them and others. The AFA will also work in partnership with the police, the Disclosure and Barring

Service, Safeguarding Adults Boards, and local authorities so these organisations can carry out their statutory duties to safeguard and protect Adults at Risk.

When responding to abuse or allegations of abuse and considering the sharing of information, The AFA will put the needs of the adult first, work in their best Interests and consider the six principles of safeguarding adults detailed in the Care Act 2014:

- Empowerment - People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
- Protection - Support and representation for those in greatest need. "I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I can take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want."
- Prevention - - It is better to act before harm occurs. "I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."
- Proportionality - The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- Partnership - Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse.
- Accountability - Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

These principles will underpin all work with Adults at Risk.

- 1 The Care Act 2014
- 2 Mental Capacity Act, 2005


**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 Local Safeguarding Adults Board, UK Sport and/or Home Country Sports Councils and the FA
- As a result of any other significant change or event.

This policy was last reviewed on: 11/01/2024.

By: Dyahanne Sappleton

Role: Designated Safeguarding Officer

Signed: 

Date: 11/01/2024

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