

Safeguarding is at the Heart of what we do.

Safeguarding all who participate in the game in Greater Manchester is the number one priority for Manchester FA. Manchester FA have an ambitious plan to provide opportunities for everyone within the game – whether a player, volunteer, coach, referee or administrator. These opportunities will only be realised where Manchester FA ensure safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do.



- We ensure that our operational and strategic governance structures are of the highest standard and compliant with The FA's Safeguarding Operating Standards.
- We ensure that our Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) has the full support of every member within our team, guided by the Senior Safeguarding Lead (SSL).
- We ensure our Board of Directors, led by the Board Champion, is fully aware of the role they play in Safeguarding and they all champion the efforts within grassroots football in Greater Manchester. This is achieved by ensuring that safeguarding is a standing/regular agenda item at Board meetings.
- We recruit and deploy our team and volunteers appropriately and will ensure that they are briefed fully and abide by the FA Code of Conducts for Safeguarding.
- We ensure that our team, including volunteers, are trained and fully supported in their roles. We have a training needs analysis and daily reports to track those whose qualifications or training have expired.
- We ensure our clubs, leagues and volunteers have the access and support they need to ensure safeguarding is at the heart of what they do. This is facilitated through The FA's Whole Game System that provides reports for the CWO's to track those volunteers whose qualifications or training have expired.
- We ensure that grassroots football is compliant and where not, the appropriate sanctions and actions are taken. We have daily and weekly compliance reports and conduct Club and League unannounced Safeguarding visits.
- We ensure football in Greater Manchester is compliant and importantly that we all work together with stakeholders from football and non-football statutory and non-statutory agencies. This includes Local Authority Safeguarding Boards, Local Authority Safeguarding Officers, Greater Manchester Police other agencies such as NSPCC.
- We are operationally compliant with The FA's Safeguarding Operating Standards.
- We ensure that all our Manchester FA Events are risk assessed and appropriately resourced.
- We ensure our communications are proactive, positive, engaging and are at all times appropriate to meet the needs of participants under the age of 18.
- We commit clear transparent financial resources to support Safeguarding within football in Greater Manchester.
- We ensure that parents and participants under the age of 18 are heard, their views on the game vital via local parents and participants groups that we will establish throughout the season.
- We ensure that our Referees under the age of 18 are supported throughout their development and should any instances arise in reporting of discipline misconduct.