



GUIDANCE NOTES NO:

1.4

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY AND PROCEDURES: TEMPLATES

FOR CLUBS WITH YOUTH TEAMS & YOUTH LEAGUES

Version: 1.3
Published: JULY 2020



FOR ALL

HOW TO USE THESE POLICY TEMPLATES

These policy templates allow you to add your club or youth league name to the relevant sections. It is important that the policy is discussed and understood by the relevant committee. Each club and youth league needs to be clear about its responsibilities and ensure that it adheres to the policy in full (in addition to The FA's Safeguarding Regulations). Having a proactive Welfare Officer in post will provide a key point of contact and help to embed an effective safeguarding children policy.

The FA recognises that clubs come in many shapes and sizes made up of a variety of age groups which can change each season. These templates have been developed to support youth leagues and clubs that involve children and young people; defined as those under 18 years of age.

- **Template 1.4A is for clubs with youth teams;**
- **Template 1.4B is for Open-Age Adult Teams:** this includes those clubs who run youth teams and open age adult teams as well as clubs who exclusively offer youth football only;
- **Template 1.4C is for youth leagues.**

Please remember that your County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer can offer further support and advice if required.



The templates in this document are all available in editable formats for you to configure to your club/league. See downloads 1.4A, 1.4B and 1.4C

YOUTH LEAGUE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

- Youth League acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person directly connected with the league and is committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that a child is anyone under the age of 18 and therefore we have a responsibility to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place. As such we subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

Youth League endorses and adopts the following key safeguarding principles:

 - The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;
 - All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their; age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity;
 - All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
 - Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential. We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

Youth League recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our league.
- Youth League has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook [TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook](https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook)) apply to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including coaches/managers, volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, or medical staff or other club officials/helpers.
- Youth League supports The FA's Whistle Blowing policy (as described in this paragraph). Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on **0800 169 1863**, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing Safeguarding@TheFA.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

Youth League encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.
- We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to access their clubs anti-bullying policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately.

1.4C CONTINUED

5. Youth League recognises that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and our registered clubs are required to ensure their safeguarding children policy and procedures are shared with their members and actively promoted.

Youth League requires any concerns about a child to be managed by:

- i. Informing the Club Welfare Officer (Youth Teams) (CWO)
- ii. If the issue is one of poor practice the club’s CWO will either:
 - deal with the matter themselves or
 - seek advice from the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO)
- iii. If the concern is more serious – for example a concern about possible child abuse, the CWO must contact the CFA DSO. If they are not available immediately, then either the Police or Children’s Social Care must be contacted.

- iv. If the child needs immediate medical treatment then they must be taken to a hospital, if necessary, an ambulance should be called and advised that this is a child protection concern.

- v. If at any time a club member is not able to contact their CWO, or the matter is clearly serious then they can either:

- Contact the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer directly
- Contact The FA’s Safeguarding Team on **0800 169 1863** or Safeguarding@TheFA.com
- Contact the Police or Children’s Social Care
- Call the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on **0808 800 5000** or text **88858** or email help@nspcc.org.uk

If the CWO was not available then the club members are required to let them know what action they have taken, they in turn must inform the CFA DSO.

Youth League Committee understands and accepts our collective responsibility to adhere to and promote The FA’s safeguarding Children Policy and procedures with our registered clubs.

Signed:

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Chairperson			
Secretary			
Youth League Welfare Officer			

- The FA’s Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures (including the anti-bullying policy) are available via: [TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-footballs-safeguarding-framework](https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-footballs-safeguarding-framework)



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