



## **Safeguarding Children Policy**

Pitchside Football League acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members.

A child or young person is anyone under the age of 16 engaged in any Club football activity.

Pitchside Football League adheres to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

### **Key Principles**

The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are that:

- 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, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- 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

Pitchside Football League also recognise that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in Youth Football and all clubs under the banner of the Pitchside Football League.

### **The Role of the League**

Pitchside Football League has a responsibility 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 Football Association's Child Protection Regulation (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.

This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

Pitchside Football League adopt The FA's guidelines in terms of recruitment selection and these are available on the website, in terms of Clubs responsibilities to ensuring that their coaches/managers

- Have up to date role profiles
- Have the correct identification documents

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- Require an FA DBS-CRC Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines
- Undertake ALL relevant training including, First Aid, Safeguarding and a L1 Football coaching qualification
- Each coach/manager has the correct ID cards for ALL the children and young people that are within the team, and that these are exchanged prior to matches commencing, and a FULL First Aid Kit in their possession

All Club members, under Pitchside Football League, who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of children and young people will be required to complete a DBS-CRC Enhanced prior to commencing any work with children or young people.

Disclosure via The FA. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of FA Charter Standard Club guidance will be sought from The Football Association. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via The FA Enhanced DBS-CRC and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people.

It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

Pitchside Football League has appointed a Welfare Officer (WO) in line with The FA's role profile and completion of the Child Protection and Best Practice Workshop. The post holders will directly be involved with all Clubs under the Pitchside Football League banner to act as a go between for the Lincolnshire FA and the respective local Club. The WO within the local Club should be the first point of contact for all club members and parents/carers regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. The Clubs WO can then liaise directly with the Pitchside Football League WO who will advise and take further advice from the Lincolnshire FA. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable within the League. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the WO or member of the committee or alternatively in cases of serious bullying contact the Lincolnshire FA Safeguarding Officer. The Pitchside Football League enforces a strict Anti-Bullying policy.

Codes of conduct for coaches, players, officials and parents/carers, officials and coaches have been implemented by the Lincolnshire FA. These codes of conduct have clear sanctions to deal with any misconducts at any club and level and also acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the Pitchside Football League or Lincolnshire FA in more serious circumstances.

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## **FA Safeguarding Policy**

The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via the FA website; further advice on Safeguarding Children can be obtained from:

- The FA website
- Lincolnshire Football Association's Welfare Officer: Sarah Pridmore
- – telephone no: **08449 67 07 08**
- – email: [sarah.Pridmore@lincolnshirefa.com](mailto:sarah.Pridmore@lincolnshirefa.com)
  
- The FA Safeguarding Children enquiry line **0845 210 8080**
- Emailing – [Footballsafe@TheFA.com](mailto:Footballsafe@TheFA.com)

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