

The FA Charter Standard League Programme Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures Template



Get **into** Football



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Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures Template

This policy template has been designed so that you can add your league name to the relevant sections. It is not recommended that you make any other changes unless you discuss these first with your County FA Welfare Officer and have them agreed. It is important that you discuss this policy as a committee - ensure that you are clear about your responsibilities as a league and that you adhere to this policy in full. Appointing a Youth League Welfare Officer is an integral requirement of this policy.

Mepal & Sutton FC

Charter Standard Youth League Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Mepal & Sutton FC Youth 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 18 engaged in any Youth League football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children - Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2. 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. Mepal & Sutton FC

Youth League recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our league.

3. Mepal & Sutton FC 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 Football Associations 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.

- Develop a role profile
- Request identification documents
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
- Request and follow up with 2 references before appointing
- Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines

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.

6. Mepal & Sutton FC Youth League has appointed a Youth League Welfare Officer (YLWO) in line with the FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or CFA. The YLWO is the first point of contact for all league committee members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The YLWO will liaise directly with the CFA Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice and abuse amongst CWO and their members and league committee members.

8. Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/ Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by [Mepal & Sutton FC](#) Youth League. In order to validate these Respect codes of conduct the league has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the CFA in more serious circumstances. All registering clubs will be required to adopt the Respect codes.

9. Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns – no action is not an option.

- i. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the YLWO.
- ii. If the issue is one of poor practice they will either:
 - deal with the matter themselves or
 - seek advice from the County FA Welfare Officer
- iii. If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse they will where possible contact the County FA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services
- iv. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your County FA Welfare Officer know what action you have taken.
- v. If at any time you are not able to contact your YLWO or the matter is serious then you can either:
 - contact your County FA Welfare Officer directly or
 - call The FA/NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or
 - contact the Police or Children's Services

NB - The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures available via www.TheFA.com/Footballsafe click on the 'downloads' under Policy and Procedures, outlines in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams to describe this process. This is also covered within the Safeguarding Children workshop, where participants are given the opportunity to discuss how this feels and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation.

10. Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

- www.TheFA.com/Footballsafe
- Your County Football Association's Welfare Officer
- The FA Safeguarding Children enquiry line 0845 210 8080
- Emailing – Footballsafe@TheFA.com