

# Eccleshall Eagles Juniors Football Club Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Eccleshall Eagles Juniors Football Club (EEJFC), an FA Charter Standard Club, 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 Club 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. If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding, please raise them as appropriately to:
  - a. Your team manager;
  - b. Our Club Welfare Officer: Richard Hodgkins on 07867 904512 or [richard.hodgkins@rexel.co.uk](mailto:richard.hodgkins@rexel.co.uk);
  - c. Or the Staffs FA Safeguarding Officer Jan Scott on 07969 294023 or [jan.scott@staffordshirefa.com](mailto:jan.scott@staffordshirefa.com).
3. The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are that:
  - a. The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;
  - b. 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;
  - c. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;

- d. Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential;
  - e. 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;
  - f. EEJFC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.
4. EEJFC 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 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.
5. We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:
- a. Develop a role profile;
  - b. Request identification documents;
  - c. As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews before appointing;
  - d. Request and follow up with two references before appointing;
  - e. Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines. All current FA Charter Standard Club members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of children and young people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure via The FA CRB Unit. 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 CRB Unit Enhanced CRB Disclosure 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.

5. EEJFC supports The FA's Whistle blowing Policy and encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary. Whistle-blowing can be used as an early warning system or when it's recognised that appropriate actions have not been taken. This approach or policy is adopted in many different walks of life. It is about revealing and raising concerns over misconduct or malpractice within an organisation or within an independent structure associated with it. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can also use whistle-blowing by calling 0800 169 1863 and asking for The FA's safeguarding team, or via email on [safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:safeguarding@TheFA.com). Alternatively you can go direct the Police or Children's Social Care and report your concerns there, or to the Child Protection in Sport Unit via [cpsu@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:cpsu@nspcc.org.uk) or the NSPCC Helpline via 0808 800 5000 or by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).
6. EEJFC has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) 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 CWO is the first point of contact for all Club committee members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The CWO 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 their Club members.

7. We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable in our 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 CWO or alternatively, in cases of serious bullying, we may contact the CFA Welfare Officer.
8. Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by EEJFC. In order to validate these Respect codes of conduct the Club 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 members will be required to adopt the Respect codes. 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.
  - a. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the CWO;
  - b. If the issue is one of poor practice they will either:
    - I. deal with the matter themselves; or
    - II. seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer.
  - c. If the concern is more serious - possible child abuse - they will, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services;
  - d. 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 CFA Welfare Officer know what action you have taken;

- e. If at any time you are not able to contact your CWO or the matter is serious then you can either:
    - I. Contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly; or
    - II. Use whistle-blowing by calling 0800 169 1863 and asking for The FA's safeguarding team, or via email on [safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:safeguarding@TheFA.com); or
    - III. Go direct to the Police or Children's Social Care and report your concerns there, or to the Child Protection in Sport Unit via [cpsu@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:cpsu@nspcc.org.uk) or the NSPCC Helpline via **0808 800 5000** or by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).
  9. Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from <http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding>
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