



Stradbroke Youth FC



Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Stradbroke Youth Football 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 (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2. The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are 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;
 - 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, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief;
 - 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.

Stradbroke Youth Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3. Stradbroke Youth Football Club 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 Safeguarding Children Regulations (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.
4. We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:
 - Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves;
 - Request identification documents;
 - As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them;
 - Require a Criminal Records Check (CRC) via the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) as appropriate in line with FA guidelines.



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All current Stradbroke Youth Football 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 DBS Enhanced Criminal Record Check. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Stradbroke Youth Football 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 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 minimize the risk of 'grooming' within football.

5. Stradbroke Youth Football Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer 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 County FA. The Club Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Club Welfare Officer will liaise directly with Suffolk FA (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 club members.
6. We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. 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 Club Welfare Officer in cases of serious bullying the Suffolk FA Welfare Officer may be contacted.
7. Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/ Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Stradbroke Youth Football Club as set out by Suffolk FA – see attached. 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 County FA in more serious circumstances.
8. 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 Club Welfare Officer;



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- ii. If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either deal with the matter themselves or seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer;
- iii. If the concern is more serious, possible child abuse, wherever possible, contact the CFA 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 Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer.
- v. If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
 - contact the Suffolk FA Welfare Officer directly
 - contact the Police or Children's Services
 - call The FA/NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or Deaf users text phone 0800 056 0566

Note: The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available at <http://www.suffolkfa.com/more/safeguarding> – click on the 'downloads'. These outline in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child.

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

- Don Darling, Club Welfare Officer

T: 01379 384929

- Darryn Marsh, County Welfare Officer, Suffolk FA

T: 01449 776319 or 07572 107791 or darryn.marsh@suffolkfa.com

- The FA/NSPCC Child Protection Helpline 0808 8000 5000

(This is a 24-hour telephone line for children and adults to seek advice or report a concern on a confidential and, if required, anonymous basis.)