

SOCCERSIXES

SAFEGUARDING POLICY



Effective Date: September 2022

Introduction

Soccersixes 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 sport or activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

The key principles of the FA Safeguarding Children & Young Person Policy are that:

- the child's or young person'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

Soccersixes 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.

Soccersixes recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

Soccersixes 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.

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
- ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone
- Where eligible require an FA accepted Enhanced Criminal Record Check (CRC) with Barring List Check in line with current FA policy and regulations.

All current members of Soccersixes working in eligible roles, with children and young people – such as managers and coaches are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced CRC with Barring List check as part of responsible recruitment practice.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of the Soccersixes 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 Process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and 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.

Soccersixes supports The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a adult in a position of trust with 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. Soccersixes 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 at any of our leagues. If bullying does occur, all players should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to Soccersixes in cases of serious bullying the County FA Welfare Officer may be contacted.

Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Soccersixes. In order to validate these Respect codes of conduct Soccersixes has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at any level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.

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. If you are worried about a child or young person then you need to report your concerns to Soccersixes.

If the issue is one of poor practice then Soccersixes will either:

- Deal with the matter themselves or
- Seek advice from the County FA Welfare Officer

If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, where possible, contact the County FA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care.

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.

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 Soccersixes Safeguarding Officer Chris Sockett chris.sockett@soccersixes.net
- Contact your County FA Welfare Officer directly
- Contact The FA 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

Further advice on Safeguarding matters can be obtained from:

Soccersixes Head Office:

T: 0845 300 8886
E: info@soccersixes.net

County Football Association's Welfare Officer

The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via: www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding – click on 'Raising Awareness – Best Practice Downloads', the Policy and Procedures document is within the resources area.

The FA's policy on Disclosure and Barring Service CRCs is subject to change. CRC information and guidance can be found at www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/criminal-record-checks