



CHICHESTER RANGERS FC

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

We acknowledge our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who we have been entrusted to care for and we are committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 years engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

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, 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.

We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. We recognise that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

The 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 FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations 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 applicants, and where possible interview people before appointing them.
- ask for and follow up with two references before appointing someone.

- where eligible, require an FA accepted Enhanced DBS in line with current FA policy and regulations.

All current club members working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as managers and coaches, are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced DBS 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 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 DBS 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.

The club supports The FA's Whistleblowing Policy and encourages everyone to utilise it if necessary. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team by:

- Phone: 0800 169 1863
- Post: The FA Case Manager, The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ
- Email: Safeguarding@TheFA.com

Or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

We have 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 Sussex 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 the Sussex County FA Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of Respect, 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 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, and in cases of serious bullying, the Sussex County FA Welfare Officer may be contacted.

Respect codes of conduct for players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by the club. 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 Sussex County FA in more serious circumstances.

Report 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 – ignoring it and taking no action is not an option.

If you are worried about a child, then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.

If the issue is one of poor practice, the Club Welfare Officer will either:

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

If the concern is more serious, such as in cases of possible child abuse, where possible we will contact the County FA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or local authority's Children's Social Care team.

If the child needs immediate medical treatment, we will take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. The Club Welfare Officer will be told what actions have been taken and they will inform the Sussex County FA Welfare Officer.

If at any time we are not able to contact our Club Welfare Officer, or the matter is clearly serious then we can either:

- contact the Sussex County FA Welfare Officer directly.
- contact The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or Safeguarding@TheFA.com.
- contact the Police or the local authority's Children's Social Care team.
- call the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

**Remember, if a child is at immediate risk of harm,
call 999 straight away and report it to the police.**