

Wheatley Wanderers JFC



Wheatley Wanderers JFC Children and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

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Introduction

Wheatley Wanderers Junior Football Club (WWJFC) wishes to ensure that all those taking part in Football are able to do so, protected and kept safe from harm while they are with coaches and / or volunteers. This is particularly true in respect of children and vulnerable adults.

With this in mind the WWJFC recognises that we have a duty towards all those taking part in football activities ensuring that support is provided to ensure all can be done with the highest possible standards of care.

All coaches should have a clear understanding of operating within an appropriate code of ethics, aware of what their 'duty of care' is and how this relates to their position in providing activities and being responsible for others.

These guidelines apply to children and young adults up to the age of 18 years.

Duty of Care

A good definition of 'duty of care' is:

“The duty which rests upon an individual or organisation to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety of any person involved in any activity for which that individual or organisation is responsible”

The content of this document provides specific information in respect of Child Protection and the protection of Vulnerable Adults in order that coaches and volunteers can appreciate their 'duty of care' with regard to these issues, risk assess their positions and support and advise those at risk.

The policies and guidelines referenced within this document and its various appendices have been adopted as those of WWJFC. The principles of the policy are based on our moral and ethical duty to ensure children and vulnerable adults can enjoy sport in a safe environment and as such reflect current best practice.

Guidelines presented in this document provide coaches and volunteers with ideas and recommendations to assist them in implementing specific procedures and safeguards to protect the young and vulnerable.

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Definitions of Abuse

It is generally acknowledged that there are five main types of abuse:-

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is just what the term implies – hurting or injuring a child - by hitting, shaking, squeezing, burning or biting them. In Sport this might result if the nature or intensity of training is inappropriate for the capacity of the performer or where drugs are tolerated or advocated. Bullying is likely to come into this category - see below

Sexual Abuse

Where young people are used by adults to meet their own sexual needs. It could range from sexually suggestive comments to full intercourse and includes the use of pornographic material.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse occurs when a child is not given love, help and encouragement and is constantly derided or ridiculed e.g. racial or sexual remarks.

It can also occur if a child is overprotected. Abuse can occur where a parent or coach has unrealistic expectations over what a child can achieve.

Neglect

Failing to meet children's basic needs such as food, warmth, adequate clothing, medical attention or constantly leaving them alone, it could also mean failing to ensure they are safe or exposing them to harm or injury.

Bullying

Bullying in sport can be – the Parent/carer who pushes too hard, the coach who adopts a win at all costs philosophy or asserting unacceptable behaviour on the player to make them unwelcome or prevent them using club equipment. Bullying can also occur between young people.

Children and Vulnerable Adults Safety and Welfare Guidelines

At WWJFC we believe that the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse. Everyone at WWJFC can help - administrator, club official, coach, parent, friends and children themselves.

Abuse can occur wherever there are children - at home, at school, in the park, at the club. Sadly, there are some people who will seek to be where children are simply in order to abuse them. We believe that everyone at WWJFC has a moral responsibility and therefore a part to play in looking after the children and vulnerable adults with whom we are working with. The

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Children Act 1989 indicates that anyone who has responsibility for the care of children should "do what is reasonable in all circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare."

By following these guidelines you will help to protect both the children in our sport and our coaches/helpers from wrongful allegations.

Avoid situations where you are alone with one child. Occasionally there may be no alternative, for example, where a child falls ill and has to be taken home. We would stress, however, that one to one contact must never be allowed to occur on a regular basis.

- If any form of physical support is required, ask for permission, explain what you are doing and why to both the child and their parents/carers.
- Where possible ask parents/carers to be responsible for children in changing rooms. Always ensure that whoever supervises young people work in pairs
- Where there are mixed teams/groups away from home, they should always be accompanied by an adult male and female coach/helper.
- Don't allow physically rough or sexually provocative games, or inappropriate talking or touching.
- If it's necessary to do things of a personal nature for children who are young or disabled, make sure you have another adult accompanying you. Get the consent of the parent/carer and if possible the child.
- Let them know what you are doing and why.
- Ensure that any claims of abuse by a child are taken seriously and that it is dealt with by people who know what to do.
- Ensure that the nature and intensity of training does not exceed the capacity of a child's immature and growing body.
- Follow the Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA guidelines for photography and Video.

Ensuring WWJFC adheres to The FA Child Protection and best practice guidelines with particular reference to:

- Attended The FA's Child Safeguarding and best practice workshops.
- The requirements for coaches and helpers to have undergone disclosure with respect to Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks.
- Implemented code of conduct for player, coaches, spectators, parents and officials.
- Publicise the FA/NSPCC Child protection Helpline 0808 800 5000.

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Supplementary Guidelines

What To Do In Particular Circumstances

What if you accidentally hurt a child?

If you accidentally hurt a child and they seem distressed in any manner, appear sexually aroused by your actions, or misunderstand something you have done, report any such incident immediately to another Club Coach/official and make a brief written note of it. You should also inform the child's parents/carers, preferably in person.

Is touching OK?

If a coaching technique would benefit from physical contact or support then first ask the players permission (e.g. would you mind if I held your shoulders to show you what I mean?) It is useful to take time to explain why and how this is used to the player and their parent or carer.

Touching can be OK and appropriate as long as it is neither intrusive nor disturbing.

What should you do as a coach if you have allegations made against you?

If as a coach you have had allegations made against you and you wish to discuss the matter with an impartial adviser you could contact the Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA appointed Child Protection Officer. That person will have had no involvement with the reported concerns or incident and will be able to support and advise you as to how to represent yourself.

Indications of Child Abuse

There are physical and behavioural signs that might raise your concern about the welfare or safety of a child. They are only indicators - not confirmation. Some examples are:

Where the child(s)

- Say that she or he is being abused, or another person says they believe (or actually know) that abuse is occurring.
- Has an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent.
- Behaviour changes - either over time or quite suddenly, becoming aggressive, withdrawn or unhappy.
- Appears not to trust adults, e.g. a parent or coach with whom she / he would be expected to have, or once had, a close relationship.
- Shows inappropriate sexual awareness for his/her age and some times behaves in a sexually explicit way.
- Becomes increasingly neglected-looking in appearance, or loses or puts on weight for no apparent reason.

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Bear in mind that physically disabled children and children with learning difficulties are particularly vulnerable to abuse and may have added difficulties in communicating what is happening to them.

Responding To A Disclosure OF Abuse

If a child tells you that he or she is being abused;

- Stay calm.
- Don't promise to keep it to yourself.
- Listen to what the child says and, please, take it seriously.
- Only ask questions if you need to identify what the child is telling you - don't ask the child about explicit details.
- Make a detailed note of what the child has told you but, as advised in the previous section, please don't delay passing on the information.

Concerns About The Welfare Of The Child

If you have concerns about the welfare of a child;

Please remember the Golden Rule, it is not your responsibility to decide whether a child is being abused but we are asking you to fulfil your legal requirements and act on your concerns. Make a detailed note of what you've seen or heard but don't delay passing on the information.

If you are a member, or the parent/carer or friend of a member of the WWJFC you should:

- Tell an appointed Club Welfare Officer, or alternatively the secretary, chairperson, coach or any committee member, or at an event possibly an event organiser - unless, of course you suspect them of being involved.
- Contact the Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA Child Protection Lead Officer or Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA appointed Child Protection Officer (contact via Sheffield Office).
- If you need urgent advice contact the FA/NSPCC Child Protection 24 hour HelpLine. 0808 800 5000

If you are a club officer or event organiser you can;

- Contact your Club Welfare Officer – details on Club contact list.
- Talk to the child's parents/carers about the concerns if you think there may be an obvious explanation such as a bereavement or pressure from their studies/exams.

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- If you need immediate advice contact the NSPCC Child Protection 24 hour HelpLine. Contact your local Social Services Department or, in an emergency, the Police.
- If you are working with children away from home, at a training camp, perhaps, or a national/regional competition - tell the team manager or the chief coach.
- If you are working with a school - inform the head teacher.
- If you are involved in a community scheme such as local authority 'Football in the Community' lessons, refer to their Safeguarding Children procedures.

NB Even if reporting your concerns to club appointed persons or club officials you are also required to write to the Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA to advise them of your concern and to whom you have reported it.

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Links

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Welfare Officer – Christina Harrison

Tel - 07903880089

E-mail - CJH69@sky.com

DDJSFL

Local League Welfare Officer – Rob Smith

Doncaster District Junior Sunday Football League

Transport Building

Doncaster

Kirk Sandal

DN3 1HT

Tel – 01302 881256

E-mail – ddjsfl@bbmax.co.uk

S&HCFA

County Welfare Officer – Clare Taylor

E-mail – Clare.taylor@sheffieldfa.com

Sheffield and Hallamshire County Football Association Limited

Clegg House

69 Cornish Place

Sheffield

S6 3AF

Tel: 0114 241 4999

Email: info@sheffieldfa.com

www.sheffieldfa.com

Any of the above 3 WELFARE OFFICERS can be contacted if you have a Safeguarding (Child Protection) issue or if it is an Emergency contact local social services or the police.

The FA Child Protection Department

Lilleshall Hall National Sports Centre

Newport

Shropshire

TF10 9AT

www.TheFA.com/goal

The FA Child Protection Team Tel: 0207 745 4649

The FA CRB Unit Tel: 0845 210 80 80

The FA/NSPCC Helpline Tel: 0808 800 5000

The FA Report Abuse and Discrimination Tel: 0800 085 0508

CHILD LINE (Help for children & young people) Tel: 0800 1111