



WREXHAM AFC LIMITED SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

1. Introduction

Wrexham Football Club Ltd (the 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 Procedures](#)) and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2. Principles

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 take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. The Club recognises 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 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.



3. Safer Recruitment

We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers (outlined in our [Safer Recruitment Policy](#)) 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 Disclosure and Barring Check (previously known as a Criminal Record Check (CRC)) with Barring List Check in line with current FA policy and regulations.

All current Football 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 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 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 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.

4. Whistleblowing (Public Interest Disclosure)

The Club 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.

Wrexham AFC Ltd encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.



5. Safeguarding, Welfare and EDI Lead (Club Welfare Officer)

The Club has appointed a Safeguarding, Welfare and EDI Lead (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 FAW.

The Safeguarding, Welfare and EDI Lead is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Safeguarding, Welfare and EDI Lead will liaise directly with the FA/FAW Welfare Officer both regionally and nationally 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. Bullying

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 Safeguarding, Welfare and EDI Lead and in cases of serious bullying the FA/FAW Welfare Officer may be contacted.

7. Respect

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 regional FA/FAW 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 Safeguarding, Welfare and EDI Lead.
- ii. If the issue is one of poor practice the Safeguarding, Welfare and EDI Lead will either:
 - deal with the matter themselves or
 - seek advice from the FA/FAW Welfare Officer
- iii. If the concern is more serious - possible child abuse, where possible, contact the FA/FAW Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
- 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 Safeguarding, Welfare and EDI Lead know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the FA/FAW Welfare Officer.
- v. If at any time you are not able to contact your Safeguarding, Welfare and EDI Lead or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
 - contact your FA/FAW 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

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

The policy outlines in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams which describe this process. How to make a referral is also covered in the Safeguarding Children workshop. Participants are given the opportunity to discuss how this feels and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation.



9. Further advice on Safeguarding Children

Named Person for Safeguarding: Humphrey Ker - Executive Director

Safeguarding, Welfare and EDI Lead - safeguarding@wrexhamafc.co.uk

- FAW Safeguarding Officer directly on 02920 435 830
- www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding
- Emailing - Safeguarding@TheFA.com
- The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0845 210 8080
- contact the Police
- call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk
- call Childrens Social Care SPOA - 01978298039 or the Emergency Duty Team if during the evening or weekends on 03450533116.

October 2023

Policy to be reviewed annually - next review due by October 2024.