

LOBFC Safeguarding Children Policy

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 abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football, thus every club is required to endorse and adhere to The Association's Safeguarding Children Policy.

The FA and LOBFC recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children and young people who play or participate in football by protecting them from abuse and harm.

This means creating a safe and inclusive atmosphere where everyone at the club works together to tackle both bullying and discrimination, ensure safer recruitment, and tackle poor practice which leads to harm and reduces equal opportunities.

Best practice in Inclusion, Anti-bullying, Equality and the Respect agenda are all part of making safer cultures and prevention of harm and abuse.

The FA and LOBFC are committed to working to provide a safe environment for all children and young people to participate in the sport to the best of their abilities for as long as they choose to do so.

The Association's Safeguarding Children Policy principles 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, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, racial origin, faith, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity
- 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 and carers is essential. The FA is committed to working in partnership with the Police, Children's Social Care, Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB) and the Disclosure and

Barring Service (DBS) in accordance with their procedures. This is essential to enable these organisations to carry out their statutory duties to investigate concerns and protect all children and young people.

The Association's Safeguarding Children Policy is in response to government legislation and guidance, developed to safeguard the welfare and development of children and young people.

Clubs and leagues with youth teams must appoint a Welfare Officer in line with FA affiliation requirements. All league and club Welfare Officers are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct for volunteer Welfare Officers.

The safeguarding children policy is further supported by The FA's Respect programme to address verbal abuse and bullying of youngsters by parents and coaches on the sidelines.

All policies can be found at.

<http://loutholdboysfc.weebly.com/welfare.html>