



**CHARTER STANDARD
COMMUNITY CLUB**

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

West Bridgford Colts FA Charter Standard Community 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 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, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation
- 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. West Bridgford Colts FA Charter Standard Community Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

West Bridgford Colts FA Charter Standard Community 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 Child Protection Regulation (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:

- Develop a role profile
- Request identification documents





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- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
- Request and follow up with two references before appointing
- Require an FA CRC Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines.

All our current members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of children and young people will be required to complete a CRC Enhanced Disclosure via The FA CRB Unit. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of our 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 FA CRB Unit Enhanced CRC Disclosure and that all decisions will be made 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.

Please note: The policy on CRC Enhanced Disclosures will be subject to change, in light of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. Further information will be provided on this via TheFA.com and via the County FA Welfare Officers.

West Bridgford Colts FA Charter Standard Community Club supports The FA's Whistle blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague 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, email: safeguarding@theFA.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC. Our club encourages everyone to know about this information and utilise it if necessary.

West Bridgford Colts FA Charter Standard Community Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) 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 CFA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all Club committee members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The CWO will liaise directly with the CFA Welfare Officer 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 their Club members.





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West Bridgford Colts FA Charter Standard Community Club acknowledges and endorses The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable in 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 CWO or alternatively, in cases of serious bullying, we may contact the CFA Welfare Officer³

Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by our 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 County FA in more serious circumstances. *All registering members will be required to adopt the Respect codes when joining the Club and attend an annual FA Respect briefing as part of our Community Club criteria.*

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, then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer

If the issue is one of poor practice they will either:

- a. Deal with the matter themselves or
- b. Seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer
- c. If the concern is more serious - possible child abuse - they will, where possible, contact the County FA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services
- d. 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. We will keep the County FA Welfare Officer informed of what action we have taken
- e. If at any time if anyone is not able to contact the Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
 1. contact the County FA Welfare Officer directly
 2. contact the FA Safeguarding team on 0800 169 1863 or email safeguarding@TheFA.com
 3. contact the Police or Children's Social Care
 4. call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email

help@nspcc.org.uk





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It outlines in details what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams to describe this process. This is also covered within the Safeguarding Children workshop, where participants are given the opportunity to discuss how this feels and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation.

Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

DAWN WHARRAD, Club Welfare Officer

T: 07533 008857

E: welfare@westbridgfordcolts.com

ALI HOWIES, County Football Association's Welfare Officer

T: 0115 983 7400

E: ali.howie@nottinghamshirefa.com

Email: safeguarding@theFA.com

The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0845 210 8080

Please note: The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via

www.TheFA.com-rules-governance/safeguarding

Click on Raising Awareness, "best practice downloads". The policy and procedures documents are within the resources area.

