



Huntingdon Girls Football Club

Safeguarding Children Policy **Sept 2022**

1. Huntingdon Girls FC acknowledges its responsibilities 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. This is available to view at www.thefa.com.
2. The key principles of the FA Safeguarding Children's 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 suspicion 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 parent/carers is essential.

We acknowledge that every child or young person who play or participate in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. Huntingdon Girls FC recognise that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3. Huntingdon Girls FC has a duty to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm, neglect and 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 includes volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, football coaches, club officials, parent helpers or medical staff.
4. 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 with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them
 - Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing
 - Require an FA Enhanced Disclosure Check (DBS) where appropriate in line with FA Guidelines.

All current Huntingdon Girls FC Members working in *eligible roles, are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced DBS (with Barring List check) as part of responsible recruitment practice. *Eligibility is governed by legislation and government guidance. In brief this means anyone aged 16 or over who undertakes any unsupervised roles with children and young people under 18.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness, suitability or conduct of an individual who is already involved or who has applied to become part of Huntingdon Girls FC, 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 policy or practices with



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children or young people. This is to prevent direct harm of any kind to children and to minimize the risk of 'grooming' within football.

5. Huntingdon Girls FC supports The FA's Whistle blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about an 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.

Huntingdon Girls FC encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

6. Huntingdon Girls FC has 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 Huntingdonshire 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 Huntingdonshire County Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedure for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.
7. 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. Players, parents/carers, club officials and volunteers should feel able to report any behaviour that may constitute bullying, and be assured that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the Club Welfare Officer and in cases of serious bullying, the Huntingdonshire County Welfare Officer may be contacted.
8. **Respect** codes of conduct for players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by Huntingdon Girls FC. 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 Huntingdonshire FA in more serious circumstances.
9. Advice to those 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 Club Welfare Officer.
 - II. If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either:
 - deal with the matter themselves or
 - seek advice from the Huntingdonshire County Welfare Officer
 - III. If the concern is more serious – ie. possible child abuse, where possible, contact the Huntingdonshire County Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
 - IV. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the Huntingdonshire County Welfare Officer.
 - V. If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
 - contact Huntingdonshire County Welfare Officer directly
 - contact The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or Safeguarding@TheFA.com
 - contact the Police or Children's Social Care



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10. Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

- Nikki Wood – Club Welfare Officer
T: 07903 438180
E: huntingdongirlsfcwelfare@gmail.com
- Hunts FA Safeguarding
T. 01480 447484
E: Safeguarding@HuntsFA.com
- www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding
- Emailing – Safeguarding@TheFA.com
- The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0845 210 8080
- NSPCC 0808 800 5000
- Childline 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
- Policies and documents referenced within this policy can also be located at www.huntingdongirlsfc.co.uk/club-documents

Next review due: Sept 2023