



Knowsley St. Helens Schools' Football Association

Safeguarding Children Policy

At Knowsley St. Helens Schools' Football Association (KSH-SFA), we are fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of every child and young person involved in our activities. We aim to provide a safe, positive, and enjoyable environment for all.

In line with The Football Association's (The FA) **Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures**, we adopt and endorse its principles and practices. For the purposes of safeguarding, a "child" or "young person" is anyone under the age of 18 participating in football activity.

Core Principles

We uphold the following key principles from The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy:

The welfare of the child is always the top priority.

All children, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, religion, belief, or sexual orientation, have a right to be protected from abuse.

All concerns, allegations, or suspicions of abuse will be taken seriously and acted upon promptly and appropriately.

Working in partnership with children, young people, parents/carers, and other agencies is essential for effective safeguarding.

Our Commitment

KSH-SFA recognises that every child participating in football should feel safe, supported, and free from harm or poor practice. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility — every adult involved with the Association, whether paid or voluntary, shares this duty of care.

This includes (but is not limited to):

- Coaches
- Referees
- Volunteers
- Match officials
- Medical staff
- Club and Association officials

We also acknowledge **The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations**, which apply to all roles in football.



info@ksh-sfa.co.uk



[ksh-sfa](https://www.ksh-sfa.co.uk)



[knowsley_st_helens_sfa](https://www.instagram.com/knowsley_st_helens_sfa)



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Safe Recruitment

We follow The FA's **Responsible Recruitment Guidelines** when recruiting staff and volunteers. This includes:

- Clearly defining roles and responsibilities
- Checking identification documents
- Meeting and, where possible, interviewing applicants
- Requesting and following up on two references
- Requiring an FA-accepted **Enhanced Criminal Record Check (CRC)** with Barring List Check where applicable

All current KSH-SFA members working directly with children (e.g., coaches and managers) **must hold a valid FA-accepted Enhanced CRC with Barring List Check.**

If there are concerns about an individual already involved with us or seeking to join, we will consult with The FA for guidance. Decisions will be made in line with relevant legislation and always with the welfare of children in mind.

Preventing Harm and Abuse

We support The FA's efforts to **prevent individuals with a history of serious offending** from working with children or influencing safeguarding policy. This includes identifying and managing risks around grooming, inappropriate behaviour, or direct harm.

Whistleblowing

KSH-SFA fully supports The FA's **Whistle Blowing Policy**. Any child, young person, or adult who has concerns about someone in a position of trust can report their concerns via:

- **The FA Safeguarding Team:** 0800 169 1863
- **Email:** Safeguarding@TheFA.com
- **Post:** FA Case Manager, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ

Or by contacting the **Police, Children's Social Care, or the NSPCC directly**

We actively encourage everyone involved in the Association to be aware of this policy and to speak up if needed.

Club Welfare Officer (CWO)

KSH-SFA has appointed a trained **Club Welfare Officer (CWO)** in line with The FA's requirements. The CWO:

Is the first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns

Works closely with the County FA Welfare Officer

Promotes awareness of safeguarding, poor practice, and the Respect campaign

Has completed The FA's **Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer Workshops**

Contact:

Mr. Tony James

C/O Malvern Primary School

Tel: 0151 477 8230



info@ksh-sfa.co.uk



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Bullying

We recognise bullying as a form of abuse, and we are committed to creating an environment where bullying is not tolerated. All incidents of bullying will be dealt with promptly and appropriately.

Serious incidents should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer and may also be referred to the County FA Welfare Officer.

Respect Codes of Conduct

KSH-SFA has implemented **Respect Codes of Conduct** for:

- Players
- Parents/Spectators
- Coaches
- Match Officials

We have clear procedures for dealing with repeated or serious breaches and recognise that the County FA may impose sanctions where necessary.

Reporting a Concern: What to Do

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child or young person, **you must report it**. Doing nothing is not an option.

1. **Report your concerns to the Club.**
2. If it appears to be poor practice, the Club Welfare Officer will:
 - Handle the matter directly, or
 - Seek advice from the County FA Welfare Officer
3. If it may involve **abuse**, contact the CFA Welfare Officer immediately. Then report to the Police or Children's Social Care.
4. If the child is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical help:
 - Call 999 or take the child to A&E
 - Inform the Club Welfare Officer as soon as possible
5. If you cannot reach the CWO or the matter is urgent:
 - Contact the CFA Welfare Officer
 - Call The FA Safeguarding Team: **0800 169 1863** or email Safeguarding@TheFA.com
 - Contact **Police** or **Children's Social Care**
 - Or call the **NSPCC 24-hour Helpline**:
 - Tel: **0808 800 5000**
 - Text: **88858**
 - Email: help@nspcc.org.uk



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Resources and Training

The FA's full **Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures**, including flowcharts and referral guidance, are available at:

www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding

Further training, such as The FA Safeguarding Children Workshop, is available via your County FA.

If you need further advice, contact:

Mr. Tony James (CWO) – 0151 477 8230

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