



SAFEGUARDING & CLUB POLICY INFORMATION

*Updated June 2024
(Reviewed annually)*



CLUB STATEMENT TO ALL PARENTS FROM YOUTH CHAIRMAN, MARK LEAH

With the current national headlines and scandal within football I thought it best to reassure every one of the practices, checks and balances within our club. Our primary aim is to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for our children to play football.

As an FA Chartered standard club we are subject to an annual Health check and in order to meet the criteria we have to provide evidence of the following:

1. Details of our Club Welfare Officers
2. Our Club Welfare Officers have an in date attendance at Welfare Officer Course and Safeguarding workshop.
3. All our coaches and volunteers are DBS enhance checked.
4. All our coaches have an in date Safeguarding Children qualification.

In addition to this we ensure that all our coaches work towards the criteria to be an FA Licensed Coach. This gives them an FA License to work with U18s. Outside of the FA criteria we can provide list of all volunteers and their DBS numbers to all parents who wish to see them. In addition to the talk at the start of the season to all players, We will be providing each player and their families with a booklet in the next week to ten days that has all our club policies held within our constitution including safeguarding procedures.

Our Club Welfare Officers are:

Mark Leah (DSL)	Email: markl@stdayafc.co.uk	Tel: 07875 596798
Jo Cunnen (Deputy DSL)	Email: joannemcclelland1@outlook.com	Tel: 07825 815736
Claire Mitchell	Email: celmitch@sky.com	Tel: 07368 344051
Nicola Harvey-James	Email: fruityvodka@sky.com	Tel: 07540 896970
Suzie Varney	Email: suenado@hotmail.com	Tel: 07587 706982

The CCFA link below has the County Welfare Officer details as well as some fantastic resources that show how much work has been done in recent years by the FA to make the game safer for children at all levels.

<https://www.cornwallfa.com/about/rules-and-regulations/safeguarding-and-welfare>

Regards

Mark Leah
Proud Chairman of St Day Youth AFC

External safeguarding Contacts

**Cornwall Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU) for professionals
Cornwall Multi-agency Advice Team (MAAT) for members of public
0300 1231 116 out of office hours contact 01208 251300
In EMERGENCY 999**

[Partnership website: www.safechildren.cios.co.uk](http://www.safechildren.cios.co.uk)

Cornwall Early Help Hub 01872 322277

Email: earlyhelphub@cornwall.gov.uk

www.cornwall.gov.uk/earlyhelphub

NSPCC Whistle Blowing Helpline 0800 028 0285

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

01872 326536 or lado@cornwall.gov.uk

Channel referral 01392 452555 or 01736 336587

Prevent County Lead

Steve Rowell prevent@cornwall.gov.uk



Safeguarding in football is everyone's responsibility.

Led by a network of 8500 welfare officers clubs aim to provide a safe and fun environment for all.

If you want to play your part then we would encourage you to ask your child's club the following questions:

- ;- · Is my child's coach Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked, FA trained and qualified?
- ;- · How can I get a copy of the club's safeguarding policy and procedures?
- ;- · Who is the Club Welfare Officer (CWO) for my child's team and how do I contact them?
- ;- · What is the role of the CWO?
- ;- · What should I do if I have a complaint?
- ;- · If I have a concern about a child or someone's behaviour towards a child what should I do?

The FA would not expect clubs to:

- ;- · Discourage you from staying to watch or from becoming involved.
- ;- · Allow club officials to operate independently of the club.
- ;- · Have coaches showing favouritism or personally rewarding specific children.
- ;- · Accept inappropriate physical contact between coaches and players.
- ;- · A "win at all costs" attitude that impacts a child's well-being.
- ;- · Have coaches who invite players to spend time alone with them or to visit or stay in their home.

If you think any of these behaviours are happening please contact your CWO.

For more information go to [TheFA.com/safeguarding](https://www.thefa.com/safeguarding)

Photography and Media



Respect



Celebrating Football Through Photographs and Video

Recommended Guidelines

There has been much talk about who is allowed to take pictures of children (under 18s) playing sport and in particular what parents/carers are permitted to do. The FA would like to assure parents, carers, coaches, spectators, players and local media that we encourage the taking of appropriate images of children in football.

Potential risks

The FA has developed this guidance to help avoid the following:

- The inappropriate use, adaptation or copying of images for use on child abuse websites on the internet (often incorrectly referred to as pornography sites)
- The identification of children when a photograph is accompanied by significant personal information that will assist a third party in identifying the child. This can lead, and has led, to children being 'groomed'
- The identification and locating of children in inappropriate circumstances which include: (i) where a child has been removed from his/her family for their own safety; (ii) where restrictions on contact with one parent following a parental separation exist e.g. in domestic violence cases; (iii) in situations where a child may be a witness in criminal proceedings; or (iv) other safeguarding children concerns.

It's important to remember the majority of images taken are appropriate and taken in good faith. If we take the following simple measures we can help to ensure the safety of children in football.

Common sense considerations to ensure everyone's safety

Do:

1. share The FA's guidance on taking images with all parents, carers and members when they join the club
2. ensure the club has parental consent to use a player's image if it is to be used in the public domain e.g. club website or newspaper article. This is essential in relation to point 3 below
3. ensure that any child in your club who is under care proceedings, is protected by ensuring that their image is not placed in the public domain. This can be done by using a Consent Form, so that parents/carers can identify whether this applies to children in their care
4. focus on the activity rather than the individual
5. ensure all those featured are appropriately dressed (a minimum of vest or shirt and shorts)
6. aim to take pictures which represent the broad range of youngsters participating safely in football e.g. boys and girls, disabled people, ethnic minority communities.

Don't:

1. publish photographs with the full name(s) of the individual(s) featured unless you have written consent to do so and you have informed the parents as to how the image will be used
2. use player profiles with pictures and detailed personal information on websites
3. use an image for something other than that which it was initially agreed, e.g. published in local press when initially produced for a clubhouse commemorative picture
4. allow images to be recorded in changing rooms, showers or toilets - this includes the use of mobile phones that record images.

Filming as a coaching aid

The FA advises that coaches using videoing as a legitimate coaching aid should make parents/carers and players aware that this will be part of the coaching programme. Care should be taken when storing the videos.



4 Steps to Safeguarding

As part of The FA's role in aiming to do everything it can to support a safe and enjoyable framework for football, a new film has been made outlining the four key steps to safeguarding.

The film, featuring Wayne Rooney, Steph Houghton, Jack Rutter and Nathaniel Chalobah, explains how both parents and children can raise concerns they have about adults working in football and centred on how the 8,500 safeguarding officers working across England football take the following four steps:

1. Checked – to ensure adults are suitable to work with youngsters
2. Trained – from coaches to referees, all are given suitable safeguarding training
3. Hear – concerns from both children and adults will be listened to
4. Report – the importance of raising concerns about a child's welfare

Following these simple but crucial steps means that there is a framework in place to ensure that, if standards ever fall short with poor practice or unacceptable behaviour, they can be addressed.

Anyone who has a concern about the welfare of a child or the behaviour of an adult towards a child or young person less than 18 years of age in football is required to refer it the clubs welfare officers or the Cornwall FA team or another option is The FA Safeguarding team. The team is staffed by professionals who are experienced in dealing with these concerns.

To Email Cornwall FA directly with a safeguarding query please email safeguarding@cornwallfa.com

Cornwall FA Welfare Officer – Claire Summers-Evans - claire.summers-evans@cornwallfa.com or 01208 269010

Alternatively, you can email The FA directly via safeguarding@thefa.com

PHOTOGRAPHING AND FILMING CHILDREN

Parents, children and football clubs generally look forward to celebrating and or publicising footballing successes by photographing children at matches and events. Documenting a child's involvement and progress through the season both by film and photos is widely accepted as contributing to the enjoyment of the game. It's also recognised some coaches find it helpful to use photographs or film as a coaching tool to support a player's development.

The FA recognises the use of photos and film on websites, social media, posters, within the press or other publications, can pose direct and indirect risks to children if they are not managed appropriately. However, the taking of appropriate photographs and or filming of children is supported by The FA.

Everyone wishing to film or take photos in football has a responsibility to familiarise themselves with and adhere to the following guidance.



COMMON SENSE CONSIDERATIONS TO ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY

It's important to remember the majority of photographs and film taken are appropriate and taken in good faith. If we take the following measures we can help to ensure the safety of children in football.

DO:

1. Share The FA's guidance on taking photos and filming with everyone who becomes a club member (officials, parents/carers);
2. Ensure the club has written parental consent to use a player's photo and/or film footage in the public domain e.g. on the club website, Facebook page or in a newspaper article. This is essential in relation to point 3 below;
3. Ensure that any child in your club who is under care proceedings where there are legal restrictions, is protected by ensuring their image is not placed in the public domain. This can be done by using The FA's **Club Annual Membership Information and Consent Form**. See **Guidance Notes 8.2** for this form;
4. Ensure all those featured are appropriately dressed (a minimum of vest or shirt and shorts);

5. Aim to take pictures which represent the broad range of youngsters participating safely in football e.g. boys and girls, disabled people, ethnic minority communities;
6. Advise parents/carers and spectators that there can be negative consequences to sharing photos or film footage linked to information about their own or other people's children on social media (Facebook, Twitter) – and that care should be taken about 'tagging';
7. Establish procedures to respond to and manage any concerns, including clear reporting structures and a system to contact the Police when necessary.

DON'T:

1. Publish photographs with the full name(s) of the individual(s) featured unless you have written consent to do so and you have informed the parents/carers as to how the photo will be used;
2. Use player profiles with pictures and detailed personal information online;
3. Use an image for something other than that which it was initially agreed, e.g. published in local press when initially produced for a clubhouse commemorative picture;

4. Allow photos or film footage to be recorded in changing rooms, showers or toilets – this includes the use of mobile phones that record images;
5. Include any advertising relating to alcohol or gambling in photographs or film footage of children.

REMEMBER

- It's not an offence to take appropriate photographs or film footage in a public place even if asked not to do so;
- No-one has the right to decide who can and cannot take photos or film on public land;
- If you have serious concerns about a possible child protection issue relating to the taking of photos or film footage then call the Police. This action should only be taken where you believe that someone may be acting unlawfully or putting a child at risk;
- The land or facility owner can decide whether or not photography and or filming at football activities will be permitted when carried out on private land. However you need to make this known before allowing individuals access to the private property. If they do not comply then you may request they leave;

- Try not to use photos or film footage that include individuals wearing jewellery (as wearing jewellery whilst playing is contrary to the Laws of the Game as well as being a health and safety issue);
- That swimming as a social activity for football clubs presents a higher risk for potential misuse than football, so photos or film footage should:

- Focus on the activity rather than a particular child;
- Avoid showing the full face and body of a child – instead show children in the water, or from the waist or shoulders up;
- Avoid photos and camera angles that may be more prone to misinterpretation or misuse than others.

If you are concerned about the inappropriate use of photos or film footage please report this to your County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer or to The FA Safeguarding Team via Safeguarding@TheFA.com. [Click here](#) for a full list of key contacts at County FAs.

* Including filming



Young Players

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

As a player, you have a big part to play. That's why The FA is asking every player to follow a Respect Code of Conduct.

When playing football, I will:

- Always play to the best of my ability
- Play fairly - I won't cheat, complain or waste time
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/manager
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Be required to leave the club.

In addition:

- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club.



Respect

Respect Code of Conduct

Spectators and Parents/Carers

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game

This club is supporting The FA's Respect programme to ensure football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment.

Remember children's football is a time for them to develop their technical, physical, tactical and social skills. Winning isn't everything.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators and parents/carers at all times.

I will:

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Remain outside the field of play and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake - mistakes are part of learning
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA, league or The FA:

I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or County FA Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games
- Suspended or have my club membership removed
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents.

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club.



Respect

Respect Code of Conduct

Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

In The FA's survey of 37,000 grassroots participants, behaviour was the biggest concern in the game. This included the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behaviour of over competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the sideline.

Play your part and observe The Football Association's Respect Code of Conduct in everything you do.

On and off the field, I will:

- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Always respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.

When working with players, I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Explain exactly what I expect of players and what they can expect from me

- Ensure all parents/carers of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Develop mutual trust and respect with every player to build their self-esteem
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA, league or The FA:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Monitored by another club coach
- Required to attend an FA education course
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club.

In addition:

- My FACA (FA Coaches Association) membership may be withdrawn.

[TheFA.com/Respect](https://www.thefa.com/Respect)