

Wilberfoss Mavericks JFC

Policies and Guidelines

Created 28th February 2020

Version 2.0



Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures

Wilberfoss Mavericks Junior Football Club ("Club") ("we", "our", "us")

As an FA Charter Standard accredited Club, we acknowledge it's our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person, who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to providing a safe environment for all Club Members. This includes protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. 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.

In order to achieve our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person, we have adopted the following Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures:

- 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. We recognise that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in the Club.
- We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly.
- We accept 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.



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- 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. To prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football, we have accepted and endorse 'The FA's Responsible Recruitment Guidelines' for recruiting volunteers and we will:
 - Develop a role profile.
 - Request identification documents.
 - 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 CRB Unit 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 CRB 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 CRB Disclosure and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people.

Please note: The policy on CRB 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.

- As an FA Charter Standard accredited Club we appoint a Club Welfare Officer (CWO). This is in line with The FA's role profile and the 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 County FA (CFA). The CWO is the first point of contact for all Club 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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Reporting concerns about the welfare of a child or young person is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns to the CWO - **no action is not an option**. If the issue is one of poor practice the CWO will either:

- (a) Deal with the matter themselves or
- (b) Seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer

If the concern is more serious (possible child abuse) they will, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a 'child protection concern'. Let your CWO and also CFA Welfare Officer know what action you have taken.

If at any time you are not able to contact your CWO or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:

- (a) contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly (see below)
- (b) contact the Police or Children's Social Care
- (c) call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on **0808 800 5000** or text **88858** or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

Please note: The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures is available via www.TheFA.com/Footballsafe. Click on 'downloads' under Policy and Procedures. It outlines in detail 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:

www.TheFA.com/Footballsafe

The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0845 210 8080.

Wilberfoss Mavericks JFC

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East Riding County FA

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