



## **Marlow Youth FC**

### **Policy : Safeguarding Children (Adult & Youth Crossover)**

#### **Introduction**

Marlow Youth FC's (MYFC) Safeguarding Children (Club with Adult & Youth Teams) Policy aims to ensure that all Club Members (including players, parents, team secretaries and volunteers, coaches and committee officers) acknowledge their responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person directly connected with the club and is committed to providing a safe environment for all.

Within MYFC are teams which are primarily for adults (over 18) but may well allow players under the age of 18 to be members of, or play with dispensation for, that team. MYFC recognises that those aged 16/17 years-of-age are legally defined as children and therefore we have a responsibility to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place. As such we subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

#### **Commitment to Safeguarding Children & Young Persons**

1. MYFC understands and accepts our collective responsibility to adhere to our safeguarding children policy and procedures. We commit to ensuring our members are aware of and have access to our policies.
2. MYFC endorses and adopts the following key safeguarding principles:
  - 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, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity;
  - All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
  - 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.

3. MYFC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.
4. MYFC 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 FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations apply to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including coaches/managers, volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, or medical staff or other club officials/helpers.

### **Safer Recruitment**

5. When we recruit new people to work or volunteer at the club, we:
  - Specify what the role is, what tasks are involved and the skills and experience required to do the role;
  - Explore applicants experiences, skills and motivation;
  - Check relevant qualifications;
  - Ensure new staff or volunteers are welcomed and given an induction into safeguarding in our club, including knowing how and when to contact the Club Welfare Officer;
  - We request DBS Checks for anyone working with under-18s.
6. All current Football Club members working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as coaches & managers, are required to hold an in-date FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check as part of safer recruitment practice.
7. 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.

### **Maintaining a Safe Environment**

8. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of a club official who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of MYFC guidance will be sought from the County FA.
9. 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.

### **Whistle-blowing**

10. MYFC supports The FA's Whistle Blowing policy which requires any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within 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. MYFC encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

### **Club Welfare Officer**

11. MYFC has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (Youth Teams) and (Adult Teams) ("CWO") . The CWO works to ensure that safeguarding adults is everyone's responsibility and is the first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns, particularly about the welfare of any child or young person.
12. The CWO will liaise directly with the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. The CWO will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

### **Bullying**

13. 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. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to access our antibullying policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately. In cases of serious bullying the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer may be contacted.

### **Codes of Conduct**

14. The FA Codes of Conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators and Coaches have been adopted by MYFC. In order to police these 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 CFA in more serious circumstances.

### **Reporting**

15. In this Club, Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option and if anyone is worried about a child it is important that they report their concerns to the Club Welfare Officer or a member of the Club committee, who will deal with reported concerns as follows:
16. The Club Welfare Officer (CWO) or a member of the Club committee will manage poor practice and where necessary seek advice from the County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO).
17. The CWO or a member of the Club committee will make referrals about more serious concerns to the CFA DSO, or in an emergency contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
18. We will ensure that if the child needs immediate medical treatment that we take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them it is a child protection concern.
19. The CWO or a member of the Club committee will keep records of the actions taken and keep the County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO) informed.

20. If the CWO or a member of the Club committee is not available at any time, or the matter is clearly serious, all our members should be aware that they can:

- Contact the CFA DSO directly;
- Contact The FA’s Safeguarding Team, on 0800 169 1863 or [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com);
- Contact the Police or Children’s Social Care; and/or
- Call the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

GUIDANCE OWNED BY:	CLUB WELFARE OFFICER
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