



GODALMING TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB CHILD WELFARE POLICY



Godalming Town Football Club acknowledges its responsibility 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.

The Football Association's child protection and best practice policy and procedures endorse and adopt the policy statement contained in that document. The key principles of The FA child protection 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 or 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. We all have 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 Football Association's child protection regulation (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those who are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

All current Godalming Town FC officials, coaches, managers & members with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure via The FA CRB Unit.

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. Godalming Town FC supports The FA's whistle blowing policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Child Protection Manager:

By phone on 0207 745 4771,

by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, 25 Soho Square, London W1D 4FA or by going direct to the police, social services or the NSPCC.

We encourage everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.



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Godalming Town FC has an appointed Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the child protection and best practice workshop. Our welfare officer will be involved with designated person's training provided by The FA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members and parents or guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. They will liaise directly with the CFA CPO and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members. 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, supporters, members, parents or guardians should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO, a member of the committee or, in cases of serious bullying contact the CFA CPO.

Codes of conduct for players, parents or spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by Godalming Town FC. In order to validate these codes of conduct the club has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by leagues or the CFA in more serious circumstances.

All prospective members will be informed of these codes. Further advice on child protection matters can be obtained from:

- Club Welfare Officer: Lisa Ballam – 07787148741 - l.ballam@sky.com
- The County Football Association's Child Protection Officer
(Whose details can be found in the County Handbook. Godalming Town are affiliated to the Surrey Football Association. Their address is: Surrey FA, Unit 2E, St Martins House, St Martins Walk, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1UW. Phone: 01372 387090)
- The NSPCC - www.nspcc.org.uk/inform
- NSPCC 24-Hour Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- The FA - www.TheFA.com/Goal
- The FA child protection team: telephone 0207 745 4649