

Brill United Youth Football Club - Safeguarding Policy

1. Brill United Youth Football Club (BUYFC) 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. BUYFC subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2. 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, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.
- 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.

The Club acknowledges 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. Brill United Youth Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club. All children who play or participate in football will be accompanied by a parent or a nominated responsible adult for the duration of any match, training session or any BUYFC event.

3. BUYFC 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 Football Association's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook) TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook applies 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.

4. The Club endorses and adopts The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and will:

- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves.
- Request identification documents.
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them.
- Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines.

All current BUYFC members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of children and young people are required to hold an in date FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check as part of safer recruitment practice.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Brill United Youth Football 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 Disclosure and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people.

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.

5. If a child requires medical treatment, a BUYFC Qualified First Aider will, in the first instance, administer first aid at the site and will contact the child's registered parent. If a child requires urgent medical treatment, the parent or nominated responsible adult will accompany the child to hospital and remain with the child for the duration of their care.

6. BUYFC supports The FA's Whistle Blowing policy (as described in this paragraph) 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. BUYFC encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

7. BUYFC has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with ongoing Welfare Officer Training provided by The FA and/or County FA.

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 County FA (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 club members.

8. The Club acknowledges and endorses The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at the club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO in cases of serious bullying the CFA Welfare Officer may be contacted.

9. Codes of conduct for Players, Parents/ Spectators, Officials and Coaches (as required by the CPSU Safeguarding Standards) have been implemented by BUYFC. 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.

10. In this Club, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option. If anyone is worried about a child, it is important that they report their concerns to the CWO, who will deal with reported concerns as follows:

- i. Our CWO will manage poor practice and where necessary seek advice from the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO).
- ii. Our CWO will make referrals about more serious concerns to the CFA DSO, or in an emergency contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
- iii. 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 safeguarding concern.
- iv. Our CWO will keep records of the actions taken and keep the CFA DSO informed.

v. If at any time our Club Welfare Officer is not available, 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**;
- 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**.