



AMFC Safeguarding Policy

Statement of Intent

A M Football Coaching 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. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children—Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

Key Principles

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

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. A M Football Coaching recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

Our Role

A M Football Coaching 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) 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.

Responsible Recruitment

We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers as described in our Safe Recruitment Policy.

All current A M Football Coaching members working in eligible roles, with children and young people - such as coaches are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced Criminal Records Check with Barring List check as part of responsible recruitment practice.

If there are any concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of A M Football Coaching 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 CRC Process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and 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.

Whistle Blowing

A M Football Coaching supports The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust with 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. A M Football Coaching encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

Bullying

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 tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported in line with our Anti Bullying Policy.

RESPECT

Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/ Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by A M Football Coaching. In order to validate these Respect codes of conduct the Company has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at any of our sessions and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.

Reporting

Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you are worried about a child, it is important that you report your concerns - no action is not an option.

Our reporting process is available in our Welfare Concern Reporting Process.

Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be sought from the Kent FA Welfare Officer.