



SALE COMMUNITIES JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB – CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1. Sale Communities 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. We subscribe to The Football Association's child protection and best practice policy and procedures and endorse and adopt the policy statement contained in that document.

2. The key principles of The FA Child Protection Policy are that:

a. The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.

b. 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.

c. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

d. 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. Sale Communities Junior Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3. Sale Communities Football Club 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 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.

4. We endorse and adopt The FA's Child Protection and Best Practice Guidelines for Recruiting Volunteers and will:

a. Develop a role profile.

b. Request identification documents.

- c. As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews before appointing.
- d. Request and follow up with two references before appointing.
- e. Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines.

All current Sale Communities Football Club members with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete a CRC Enhanced Disclosure via The FA CRC Unit. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of 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 The FA Charter Standard Club Programme Child Protection Policy obtained via The FA CRC Unit Enhanced CRC 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. Sale Communities Football Club 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 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. Sale Communities Junior Football Club encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.

6. Sale Communities Junior Football Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the child protection and best practice workshop. The post holder 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.

7. 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, 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.

8. Codes of conduct for players, parents or spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by Sale Communities Junior Football Club. 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.

9. 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.

a. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.

b. If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either:

(1) Deal with the matter themselves.

(2) Seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer.

c. If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, where possible contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services

d. 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 Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer.

e. If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:

(1) Contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly.

(2) Contact the Police or Children's Services.

(3) Call the FA/NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or Deaf users text phone 0800 056 0566.

f. The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via www.TheFA.com/Footballsafes – click on the 'downloads' under Policy and Procedures. The policy outlines in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams which describe this process. How to make a referral is also covered in the Safeguarding Children workshop. Participants are given the opportunity to discuss how this feels and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation. For more information on this workshop contact your County Welfare Officer.

10. Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

- Debbie Chapman – Sale Communities Junior Football Club Welfare Officer.
- Cheshire County FA Welfare Officer.
- www.TheFA.com/Footballsafes
- Emailing – Footballsafes@TheFA.com
- The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0845 210 8080