

SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE SAFEGUARDING POLICY



INTRODUCTION

The SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE understands that it has a duty of care as well as a legal and moral responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every young and vulnerable person who has been entrusted to our care. We are committed to working to provide a safe environment and an enjoyable experience for all our members. We acknowledge that all young and vulnerable people have a right to protection, and we must take into account the needs of those who may be particularly vulnerable.

A young person is defined as as under the age of 18

A vulnerable peron is defined as requiring additional care, support, or protection. This can be due to factors like age, disability, mental health, illness, or other personal circumstances.

KEY PRINCIPLES

- **A young or vulnerable person's welfare is, and must always be the paramount consideration**
- **It is everyone's responsibility to ensure young and vulnerable person's welfare is paramount at all times • All young and vulnerable people (regardless of their age, ethnic origin, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have a right to be protected from abuse**
- **Football should be fun, safe and a positive experience for all**
- **All suspicions and allegations of abuse or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to promptly and aptly**
- **It is the responsibility of the Child Protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, but is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns. These principles apply to everybody in junior, youth and senior football in Wales, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.**

ROLE OF LEAGUE

The SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE understands it has an important role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all young and vulnerable people by protecting them from all forms of abuse, including physical, sexual or emotional harm, and neglect or bullying. In this role we will provide young and vulnerable people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club and follow the necessary policies, procedures and practices as instructed by the Football Association of Wales (FAW). We have also appointed a League Safeguarding Officer to assist with our responsibilities.

POLICY, PROCEDURES & PRACTICES

We will ensure the safety and protection of all young and vulnerable people involved in the league through the implementation and endorsement of the FAW Safeguarding Policy, Procedures & Practices, ensuring all those who work in football are aware of the policy and understand their obligations with regards to it.

RECRUITMENT

We will follow the recruitment procedures as set out in the FAW Safeguarding Policy, Procedures & Practices to ensure all individuals working in football are recruited and appointed according to FAW best practice guidelines, including to:

- Develop a job description/role profile
- Request identification documents
- Meet and chat with applicant(s). Where possible, conduct interviews before appointing
- Request and follow up two references before appointing
- Apply for an Enhanced DBS check in line with FAW guidelines. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is currently involved or seeking to become involved with the league, we will obtain guidance from the FAW Safeguarding Team.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

We will ensure that all people working with young and vulnerable people in football are provided with support, through education and training which shall allow staff/volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific young and vulnerable people protection issues as well as be aware of, and adhere to good practice guidelines from the FAW.

POSITION OF TRUST

We shall make all officials and volunteers aware of the potential for the development of a relationship of trust between themselves and young and vulnerable people, and the consequences inherent in the accidental or intentional abuse of that relationship.

WHISTLE-BLOWING

We support and promote the FAW's Whistle-Blowing Policy, where any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can report these concerns to the FAW Safeguarding Team, either through calling 02920 435 830 or writing in to FAW Safeguarding Team.

ANTI-BULLYING

The SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE acknowledges and actively endorses the FAW's Anti-Bullying Policy. Bullying of any kind is not accepted within our league and we will work together to ensure all forms of bullying is addressed. If bullying does occur, anyone should be able to share their concerns and be assured that bullying will be dealt with seriously and swiftly

LEAGUE SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (LSO)

We have appointed a LSO in line with the FAW's role profile, and shall ensure they attend all current and future modules required by the FAW in order to have the necessary skills to undertake their role effectively.

The LSO is the first point of contact for all league members regarding concerns for the welfare of any young and vulnerable person.

The LSO will be responsible for referring concerns and taking a proactive role in raising an awareness of poor practice and abuse within the league. This individual's details are located here:

LSO: Leigh Williams

Email: l.b.williams@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07815696242

The League's Safeguarding Officer shall take all appropriate steps to make himself / herself known to those within the league.

REPORTING YOUR CONCERNS

Safeguarding young and vulnerable people is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a young or vulnerable person you must report your concerns; this should be to our League Safeguarding Officer.

If the concern is of a more serious nature, such as possible abuse, where possible, inform the League Safeguarding Officer, and proceed to contact Social Services or the Police immediately. The young or vulnerable person's welfare is paramount, ensure they are safe and if medical treatment is required, take them to hospital or call an ambulance and advise the doctor this is a protection concern.

If you are unable to contact the League's Club Safeguarding Officer or in a situation where the matter is clearly serious, contact either the FAW Safeguarding Officer, Police or Social Services, or NSPCC (details below).

FURTHER INFORMATION

A copy of the FAW Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices can also be found in the kit bag documents.

FURTHER ADVICE

For further advice regarding the FAW Safeguarding Policy or any potential safeguarding matters, please contact either of the following: -

- Football Association's Area Safeguarding Officer (details can be found in the Area Association's Handbook)
- The FAW Safeguarding Team: 02920 435830 / safeguarding@faw.cymru
- The NSPCC 24-Hour Helpline: 0808 800 5000

