



# Scotton Scorchers Junior Football Club



## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

### Youth Players

Scotton Scorchers Junior Football Club (SSJFC) “The Club”, acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person. In addition, it is committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that a child is anyone under the age of 18 and subscribe to The Football Association’s (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

SSJFC endorses and adopts the following key safeguarding principles:

- 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, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity;
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
- 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.

SSJFC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

SSJFC 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 FA’s Safeguarding Children Regulations (detailed within The FA Handbook) apply 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.

We endorse and adopt The FA’s Safer Recruitment guidelines, and we 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;
- Ask for and follow up with two references before appointing someone; and
- Where eligible, require an FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check, in line with The FA’s current Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations.

All current SSJFC members working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as coaches/managers and physiotherapists, are required to hold an in-date FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check as part of safer recruitment practice.



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If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of SSJFC, guidance will be sought from the County Football Association (CFA). It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the DBS 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.

SSJFC supports The FA's Whistle Blowing policy, which requires any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football to 'whistle blow'. SSJFC encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary. A report can be made in any of the following ways:

- West Riding CFA Safeguarding Hub
- The FA Safeguarding Team. Email: [safeguarding@thefa.com](mailto:safeguarding@thefa.com).
- The FA-commissioned dedicated NSPCC helpline. Tel: 0800 023 2642
- NSPCC 24hr helpline Tel: 0808 800 5000. Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)
- North Yorkshire Council, Safeguarding Children, online report

However, where there are significant immediate concerns about the safety of a child, professionals should contact the police on 999.

SSJFC has appointed a team of Club Welfare Officers (CWO) in line with The FA's role profile. Each CWO is required to complete appropriate and regular Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer training and workshops provided by The FA and/or CFA. The Lead CWO is the first point of contact for all Club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Lead CWO will liaise directly with the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. The Lead CWO will play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, poor practice and abuse amongst Club members.

SSJFC acknowledge and endorses 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 and parents/carers should be able to access our anti-bullying policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO, and in cases of serious bullying, the CFA DSO may be contacted.

Codes of conduct for Players, Parents/ Spectators, Officials and Coaches, as required by the Child Protection in Sports Unit (CPSU) Safeguarding Standards, have been implemented by SSJFC. To police these codes of conduct, The Club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at The Club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the CFA in more serious circumstances.



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In this Club, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option. If anyone is worried about a child, they must report their concerns to the CWO. Once reported the CWO will:

- Manage poor practice and, where necessary, seek advice from the County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO)
- Make referrals about more serious concerns to the County FA DSO, or in an emergency, contact the Police or Children's Social Care;
- Ensure that if the child needs immediate medical treatment, we take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them it is a child protection concern.
- Keep records of the actions taken and keep the County FA DSO informed.

If at any time our CWO is not available, a report can be made in one of the following ways:

- West Riding CFA Safeguarding Hub
- The FA Safeguarding Team. Email: [safeguarding@thefa.com](mailto:safeguarding@thefa.com).
- The FA-commissioned dedicated NSPCC helpline. Tel: 0800 023 2642
- NSPCC 24hr helpline Tel: 0808 800 5000. Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)
- North Yorkshire Council, Safeguarding Children, online report

However, where there are significant immediate concerns about the safety of a child, professionals should contact the police on 999.

SSJFC Committee understands and accepts our collective responsibility to adhere to our safeguarding children policy and procedures. We commit to ensuring our members are aware of and have access to our policies.