

SARRATT REBELS YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Sarratt Rebels Youth 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 Associations (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

- 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. Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our Club.

Sarratt Rebels Youth 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 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 or medical staff.

We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:

- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves
- Request identification documents
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicants and where possible interview people before appointing them
- Ask for and follow up with two references before appointing someone
- Where eligible require an FA accepted Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) with Barring List Check in line with current FA policy and regulations.

All current Sarratt Rebel Youth Football Club members working in eligible roles, with children and young – such as managers and coaches are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced DBS with Barring List check as part of responsible 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 Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club, 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 DBS Process and that all suitability 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.

Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club 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 1691863, 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. Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club encourages everyone to know The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club 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 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.

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 to the CWO if cases of serious bullying the CFA Welfare Officer may be contacted.

Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Sarratt Rebels Youth Football Club. In order to validate these **Respect** 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 County FA in more serious circumstances.

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.**

If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the CWO

If the issue is one of poor practice the CWO will either:

1. Deal with the matter themselves or
2. Seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer

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 Social Care.

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

If at any time you are not able to contact your CWO or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:

Contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly

Contact The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 1691863 or

Safeguarding@TheFA.com

Contact the Police or Children’s Social Care

Call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 8005000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

NB The FA’s Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via [www..com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding](http://www.fa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding) – click on ‘Raising Awareness – Best Practice Downloads’, the Policy and Procedures document How to make a is within the resources au area. The policy outlines in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams which describe the 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.

Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

Kim Ormsby

Telephone 07393 214932

Email kdaimond@aol.com

County Football Association’s Welfare Officer

Richard Drake

Richard.drake@hertfordshirefa.com