

# Football For All: Safeguarding Policy for Adults-Only Teams

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## Football For All Football Club Safeguarding Policy

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### 1. Policy Statement:

Football For All is dedicated to creating a safe, enjoyable, and inclusive environment for all participants and spectators. While the club is exclusively for adults, we acknowledge that situations may arise where our players share facilities or pitches with teams including individuals under 18. Additionally, we recognise that spectators at our events may include minors, often the children of participants. In all such instances, the club is committed to upholding the highest standards of safety, respect, and professionalism, ensuring a welcoming and secure environment for everyone.

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### 2. Scope of the Policy:

This policy applies to all members, coaches, volunteers, and anyone associated with Football For All Football Club, ensuring a unified approach to safeguarding and respect across all activities.

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### 3. Key Principles:

- a. **Safety First:** Everyone has the right to participate in football in a safe and protected environment.
  - b. **Child Welfare:** The welfare of children and young persons is paramount. Any concerns must be acted upon promptly and appropriately.
  - c. **Respectful Conduct:** Discrimination, bullying, harassment, or any form of disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated.
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#### **4. Guidelines for Sharing a Pitch with Teams Including Under-18s and Spectators Who Are Minors:**

- a. **Maintain Distance:** Respect boundaries and keep a reasonable distance from under-18 players or minor spectators, particularly during breaks or informal interactions.
  - b. **Avoid Direct Communication:** Direct interaction with underage players or minor spectators should be avoided. If communication is necessary, liaise with the opposing team's coach, supervising adult, or the child's parent/guardian.
  - c. **Exhibit Respect:** Use appropriate language, avoid comments that may be misinterpreted, and conduct yourself with professionalism at all times.
  - d. **Challenge & Report:** Be proactive in addressing inappropriate behaviour by challenging it when safe to do so and reporting it to the club's management.
  - e. **Prohibition of Profanity:** Offensive or inappropriate language is strictly prohibited during all fixtures and training sessions to maintain a positive atmosphere.
  - f. **Dressing Room Etiquette:** Members must use designated changing facilities and refrain from changing in public or on the pitch to maintain decency and respect, particularly in mixed-use facilities.
  - g. **Minors as Spectators:** Minors attending fixtures as spectators, often the children of participants, must be supervised by their parent or guardian at all times. The club does not assume responsibility for unsupervised minors. Additionally:
    - **Prohibited Areas:** Minors are not permitted in potentially hazardous areas, such as changing rooms or the field of play.
    - **Respectful Behaviour:** All members, participants, and spectators must ensure their actions and language are appropriate for a mixed-age audience.
    - **Incident Reporting:** Any safeguarding concerns involving minor spectators must be reported promptly to the Safeguarding Officer or pitch staff.
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#### **5. Reporting Procedure:**

- a. **Immediate Reporting:** Incidents breaching safeguarding guidelines should be reported to pitch staff immediately to ensure swift action.
  - b. **Escalation:** All concerns must be escalated to the club's Safeguarding Officer, who will handle the matter confidentially, document the incident, and take necessary action, which may include liaising with external authorities.
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#### **6. Safeguarding Officer:**

The club will designate a Safeguarding Officer to oversee all safeguarding concerns. Their contact details will be displayed on the club's official communication channels for easy access by all members.

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## 7. Training:

Although Football For All is an adults-only organisation, all members and coaches will be introduced to this policy upon joining. Emphasis will be placed on maintaining appropriate conduct in environments that include individuals under 18 and ensuring respectful behaviour around minor spectators.

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## 8. Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required due to changes in club operations or UK legislation to ensure it remains effective and relevant.

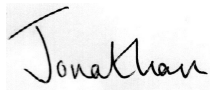
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By adhering to this policy, Football For All commits to maintaining a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all, preserving the spirit of the game while ensuring safety and inclusivity.

Signed

JONATHAN SUAREZ

Date 03/03/2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.