



Play your best.. On and Off

*Make sure you and everyone around you
has a good time, on and off the pitch.*

Play Your Part Child Safeguarding Policy

Codes of Conduct 1/4

Guildford Saints Football Club policy is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of its members. The Club adopts the F.A. Child Protection Policy and abides by the Football Association Regulations. Guildford Saints F.C. believes that every child or young person, who plays or participates in football, should do so in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. The Club recognises its responsibility to protect all children and young people from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

A child or young person shall be defined as:

'anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.'

This policy applies to anyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. Safeguarding is the responsibility of every adult with Guildford Saints Football Club. All coaches, volunteers, parents and players should show respect and understanding for all and conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the principles of the Club.

- All suspicious & allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people, their parents/carers is essential

Guildford Saints Football Club 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, civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity.

The Club will:

- Ensure Managers/Coaches and volunteers who organise the matches and train the members have a valid DBS check.
- Ensure that everyone involved with children and young people is safe to do so and knows exactly what is expected of them in relation to Safeguarding children.
- Those above have a personal referee not related to the applicant but who knows of the applicant's character, trustworthiness, and previous experience of working with/looking after children.
- Should an applicant's DBS check contain a caution/conviction relating to the abuse of children or young people, violence or sexual offences their application to become part of Guildford Saints Football Club will be denied
- Those above undertake a confidential interview with the CWO/Club Secretary.
- Have awareness of their responsibility towards Child Protection and the role of the CWO.
- Managers are alert to this policy and have basic awareness of Child Protection practice in order to promote the children's safety and well-being. They have attended training courses in Safeguarding Children and First Aid.

If there are concerns regarding an individual already involved or who has approached the Club to become involved, guidance will be sought by CFA. The FA will consider information obtained via the DBS process. Suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.



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Codes of Conduct 2/4

Duty of the CWO (Club Welfare Officer):

- Ensure this policy is implemented throughout the Club's activities. This includes the personnel, their practice and the premises in which the activities take place. This includes undertaking a site audit.
- Ensure all necessary Child Protection related enquiries and investigations are carried out. If necessary report concerns to the Children's Services. Make recommendation to the Club Secretary and the committee for approval of volunteers, coaches and managers.
- Undertake and report the results of DBS/screening enquiries to the Club Secretary where appropriate. Ensuring current procedures are implemented in the enquiry process.
- Maintain Confidentiality on a need to know basis.
- Undertake Child Protection training.

The CWO (Club Welfare Officer) will take the following course of action:

- Make a judgement as to the nature and the risk of immediate danger to the child. Where the risk of danger/ injury or worse seems imminent to the child, then the CWO is authorised to make a complaint to the Police in order to secure immediate action and protection of the child. **NO PROTOCOL SHOULD EVER INHIBIT THIS COURSE OF ACTION IF IT IS TRULY WARRANTED.**

Procedures & Reporting of concerns

Disclosure or evidence for concern may occur in any number of ways. This may be by what a child has said, about him/herself or another child or children. It may be through interception of a written item, or through observation of activity or behaviour giving cause for concern. It may be through changes in behaviour or attitude. There may be physical, emotional pointers such as bruising, staining, inappropriate behaviour or knowledge. Volunteers can pick up several other signs.

All those working on Guildford Saints activities have a duty to ensure that any suspicion, incident, allegation or other manifestation relating to Child Protection is immediately recorded and reported to the Club Secretary or the CWO.

- **If the risk is not imminent but there are significant concerns speak with the Duty Officer at Children's Services immediately:** this covers any situation where it is perceived there is danger to a child or detection of criminal offences against a child or other form of ongoing/future/recent serious harm. Prior to speaking with the duty officer, the CWO will consult with the volunteer /trainer/manager involved.
- In the event of concerns relating to abuse consult with the Duty officer at Children's Services or the duty Police officer.



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Allegation made against a Coach/Manager or volunteer

If a child or parent makes allegations to the Club against any person working for the Club, whether paid or unpaid, or a member of the committee, the following procedure will come into force - incident reports will be made at all stages as appropriate:

The person receiving the complaint will contact the Club Secretary. The Club Secretary will contact the CWO. On receipt of the complaint, the CWO will contact Children's Services to appraise them of the situation. This will be by informal channels but if there is a criminal allegation, the contact will be formal to the duty social worker and also to the police.

The Club Secretary should inform the person against whom the allegation has been made as soon as possible. **UNLESS THERE APPEARS TO BE A CASE THAT THIS MIGHT PREJUDICE A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.** This will require consultation with the police to ascertain.

The course of action to be taken from thereon will be decided by the nature of the allegation(s).

Key Contacts:

Club Welfare Officer: Kelly Mahdaviaeh

Email: kelly23_uk@hotmail.com

Tel: 07510 886485

County FA Designated Safeguarding officer: Phil Rendall

Email: safeguarding@TheFa.com

Website: TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook

GUILDFORD SAINTS FOOTBALL CLUB

Photography

The following rules will apply during all the Clubs activities:

- All children will be appropriately dressed.
- Photography or recording should focus on the activity, not on a particular young person.
- Images should focus on small groups rather than individuals.
- Images of a child who is under a court order should never be photographed.
- If a young person is named their photograph should not appear in any editorials.
- If a photograph is used avoid naming the person or use first name only, personal details should never be revealed.
- Parents of carers of all young players must give permission for any images to be taken. A permission form must be signed by a parent/guardian before any photography takes place.

July 2026

www.guildfordsaints.org



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