

Safeguarding Policy

Football '4' All Coaching Scheme is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people participating in our football activities. We believe that every child has the right to enjoy football in a safe, positive, and supportive environment free from harm, abuse, discrimination, or neglect.

1. Code of Conduct

All coaches, volunteers, parents, guardians, and participants are expected to behave respectfully and professionally at all times. Positive behaviour, inclusion, and the welfare of children must always be prioritised.

2. Recruitment, Screening and Selection

Football '4' All Coaching Scheme will carry out appropriate recruitment and safeguarding checks on all coaches, assistants, and volunteers. This may include DBS/background checks, references, interviews, and safeguarding suitability assessments.

3. Training and Education

All coaches and staff will receive safeguarding and child protection training appropriate to their role. This includes recognising signs of abuse, responding appropriately to concerns, and understanding reporting procedures.

4. Safe Environment

We are committed to maintaining safe facilities, equipment, and playing environments. Regular risk assessments will be conducted to identify and minimise potential hazards.

5. Supervision and Ratios

Appropriate supervision levels will be maintained during all coaching activities to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children. Coach-to-player ratios will reflect the age, ability, and nature of the activity.

6. Parental Consent and Communication

Written consent will be obtained from parents or guardians before children participate in Football '4' All Coaching Scheme activities. Parents will be kept informed regarding activities, expectations, and any concerns relating to their child's welfare.

7. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

Any concerns regarding the welfare or safety of a child must be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding lead or appropriate authority. All concerns will be taken seriously, handled confidentially, and responded to in accordance with safeguarding procedures and legal obligations.

8. First Aid and Emergency Procedures

Qualified first aid provision will be available during coaching sessions wherever possible. Coaches and staff will be familiar with emergency procedures, including contacting emergency services and responding to incidents promptly.

9. Photography and Social Media

Football '4' All Coaching Scheme recognises the importance of protecting children's privacy. Parental consent will be obtained before photographs or videos are used. Coaches and staff must maintain professional boundaries at all times and are prohibited from inappropriate communication with children through social media.

10. Monitoring and Review

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains effective, compliant with current legislation, and aligned with best safeguarding practices.