



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

The Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League (Crofts YFL) 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.

1. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's (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.

2. The Crofts YFL acknowledges 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.

3. The Crofts YFL 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 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, club official or medical staff.

4. 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.

- Meet & chat with applicants & where possible interview before appointing them.
- Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone.
- Where eligible, require an FA accepted Enhanced DBS Check in line with current FA policy and regulations.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of The Crofts YFL, 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 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.

5. The Crofts YFL 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 169 1863**, 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.

The Crofts YFL encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

6. The Crofts YFL has an appointed League Welfare Officer 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 League Welfare Officer will liaise directly with the County FA (CFA) Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. The League Welfare Officer for the Crofts YFL is:

Becky Good - 07971373418 / beckygood@croftsyfl.co.uk

7. The Crofts YFL 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 League Welfare Officer and in cases of serious bullying the CFA Welfare Officer may be contacted.

8. **Respect** codes of conduct for Players, Parents / Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by The Crofts YFL. In order to validate these Respect codes of conduct the League has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at league level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances



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9. The Crofts YFL uses the FA Photography Guidelines to capture and showcase footballing achievements within the League. Photographs are not taken without signed consent forms for each player within every team being sought and are taken by League Officials who have a fully enhanced FA DBS in place.

10. 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.**

- Contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly.
- Contact The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or Safeguarding@TheFA.com.
- Contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
- Call the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

NB – The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via – www.TheFA.com/footballrules-governance/safeguarding – click on 'Raising Awareness – Best Practice Downloads', the Policy and Procedures document is within the resources area.



Crofts YFL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY CARRIED OUT BY:	
Name:	Rebecca Good
Position:	LWO
Date:	29/01/2024
Review Date:	Continuous
Signed:	<i>Rebecca Good</i>
Counter Signed (Chairman):	<i>Benn Cass</i>



In partnership with

NSPCC