

Ballers Academy Safeguarding Policy

September 2023

1. Introduction:

Ballers Academy acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people, and adults under the age of 18 participating in club football activities. We are committed to providing a safe environment for all members and adhere to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children - Policy and Procedures, endorsing the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2. Key Principles:

Ballers Academy's key principles for Safeguarding Children, Young People & Adults include:

- Prioritising the welfare of children, young people, and adults at all times.
- Ensuring protection from abuse irrespective of age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation.
- Responding promptly and seriously to all suspicions and allegations of abuse.
- Collaborating with other organisations, children, young people, adults, and parents/carers to create a safe and enjoyable environment.

3. Responsibility:

Ballers Academy acknowledges that safeguarding is the responsibility of every adult involved in the club. We are committed to protecting children and young people from harm, including physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, or bullying, in accordance with The Football Association's Child Protection Regulation.

4. Responsible Recruitment:

Ballers Academy endorses and follows The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for volunteers, including role profiling, identification documents, interviews, and references. Current managers and coaches working with children or adults must hold an up-to-date DBS Enhanced Disclosure and FA Safeguarding and Emergency Aid certificates. Guidance from The Football Association will be sought in case of concerns about an individual's suitability.

5. Whistleblowing:

Ballers Academy supports The FA's Whistleblowing Policy. Concerns about a manager or coach can be reported to The FA Safeguarding Team, the Police, Children's Social Care, or the NSPCC. We encourage all members to be aware of this information and use it when necessary.

6. Club Welfare Officer (CWO):

Ballers Academy has a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) who undergoes training in line with The FA's requirements. The CWO serves as the primary contact for Club committee members regarding child welfare concerns, liaising with the CFA Welfare Officer and increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice, and abuse among Club members.

7. Bullying:

Ballers Academy recognises and condemns bullying as a form of abuse. Bullying is not tolerated, and incidents should be reported to the CWO or, in severe cases, the CFA Welfare Officer.

8. Respect Codes of Conduct:

Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Guardians, Managers, and Coaches are in place and enforced. Repeated or serious misconduct may result in sanctions imposed by the CFA.

9. Reporting Concerns:

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all concerns must be reported promptly:

- Concerns will be reported to the club's CWO. For poor practice, the CWO will address the issue or seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer.

- In cases of serious abuse, the CWO will contact the CFA Welfare Officer and, if necessary, the Police or Children's Services.

- Immediate medical treatment should be sought for the child if needed, informing medical personnel of child protection concerns.

- If unable to contact the CWO or in urgent situations, individuals can contact the CFA Welfare Officer, the Police, Children's Social Care, NSPCC, or The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line.

Welfare Officer:

Charlie Pearce – Charlie@ballersacademy.co.uk**