



## Nether Green FC

### Safeguarding Policy

1: Nether Green Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We recognise that those aged 16/17 years of age are legally defined as children and therefore we have a responsibility to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place. We are committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. We subscribe to the FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

2: The key principles of the policy are that:

- i. the child's welfare is the paramount consideration
- ii. all children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, gender reassignment, ability or disability, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, faith or belief, pregnancy and maternity.
- iii. all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- iv. working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential.

We acknowledge every child who participates in football should be able to take part in a safe and enjoyable environment, to develop to the best of their ability and to be protected from poor practise and abuse. Nether Green FC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club including parents/carers of our players.

We commit to ensuring that young people have the right to take part, be heard and have their views and opinions taken in to consideration.

3: Every adult at Nether Green FC has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect and bullying. The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations applies to every single adult involved in football at Nether Green FC.

4: We endorse and adopt the FA's responsible recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and all Nether Green FC's members such as managers, coaches, assistant coaches, parent helpers and exec committee members are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced DBS check in line with the FA's current Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations as part of responsible recruitment practise.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or has approached us to become part of Nether Green FC, guidance will be sought from the County FA Welfare Officer – Sarah Pridmore.

It is accepted that the FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having with contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practise with children or young people. This is to prevent sexual or physical harm to children and minimize the risk of football being used in the grooming of children.

5: Nether Green FC supports the FA's **Whistle Blowing Policy**. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust in football can 'whistle blow' by contacting the FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 1691863 or 0114 2615500, by emailing [Safeguarding@theFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@theFA.com) or by going directly to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

6: Nether Green FC has two appointed **Club Welfare Officers (CWO)** Milena De Felice and Johnnie Mitchell. The CWOs will be involved in welfare training provided by the County FA and will liaise directly with the County Welfare Officer (CFA) – Sarah Pridmore. The Club Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding the welfare of any child or young person.

7: We acknowledge and endorse the FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse and none of any kind is acceptable at our club. Parents/carers and players will be able to access our Anti-Bullying Policy and know that any incidents will be dealt with accordingly. Any incidents need to be reported to the CWO and will be dealt with promptly, serious cases may be reported to the County FA.

8: **RESPECT** codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Nether Green FC. The club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of sanctions which may be implemented by the CFA in more serious cases.

9: **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, if you are worried about a child, you must report your concerns – no action is not an option.**

- i. If you are worried about a child you need to report your concerns to the CWO
- ii. If the issue is one of poor practise you need to contact the CWO who may seek advice from the CFA
- iii. If the child needs urgent medical treatment call an ambulance or take them to hospital. Inform your CWO who will inform the CFA and tell them what action you have taken.
- iv. **If you think a child is in imminent danger ring the Police immediately 999 and don't let them out of your sight.**
- v. If the matter is clearly serious contact the Police or Children's Social Service\* or call the NSPCC Helpline (Monday to Friday 8am to 10pm and 9am to 6pm at

weekends) for advice on 0808 800500 or text 88858 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) The NSPCC is a child protection charity and will refer cases to the police or Children and Young People's service

\*To report a new concern when you feel that a child is suffering or at risk of suffering harm, please ring **the Sheffield Children's Social Care Safeguarding Hub on 01142 273 4855**

Further information on Safeguarding Children Matters can be obtained from [www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding](http://www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding)

Email – [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com)

The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line tel: 0845 2108080

NG CWO

Milena De Felice tel: **0745 6215649**

Email: [milenade@yahoo.com](mailto:milenade@yahoo.com) and

Johnnie Mitchell tel: **0779 2821330**

Email: [johnniespring@gmail.com](mailto:johnniespring@gmail.com)

Sheffield and Hallamshire County Welfare Officer

Sarah Pridmore on 07534 442015

Email [sarah.pridmore2@sheffieldfa.com](mailto:sarah.pridmore2@sheffieldfa.com)

**NB:** Every team must have a **FIRST AID KIT** which goes to every training session and game.

Every team must have two adults with current enhanced DBS checks at every training session and game and every team must have a minimum of two coaches.

Every team must have at least one qualified First Aider.

The club has a **DEFIBRILLATOR** which is at the end of the corridor in the changing rooms on the right, right wall as you go in. It is unlocked, can be used for children and adults and an automated voice gives instructions.

**The changing rooms door must be unlocked and open at every training session and game even if it is not used, to allow immediate access to the defibrillator.**

In the unlikely event the defibrillator is unusable the nearest one on Saturdays is The Little Gem Café (next to the changing rooms) and on Sundays it is on the rear exterior

wall of the Hammer and Pincers Pub at Bents Green by the traffic lights. You will need to ring a number on the cabinet and they give you a code to open it.

(In the UK, 12 fit young people under the age of 35 die every week from undiagnosed sudden cardiac arrest. It most often happens whilst engaged in sport. If any player presents with chest pains do not ignore it. If it's severe, ring an ambulance, otherwise stop them playing and inform their parents/carers immediately.)

See the charity 'Cardiac Risk in the Young' website for more information:

[www.c-r-y.org.uk](http://www.c-r-y.org.uk)

They offer free ECG screenings throughout the UK.

It is the responsibility of the coach to locate the nearest defibrillator at training sessions and games. Go to [www.bhf.org.uk](http://www.bhf.org.uk) to use their national defibrillator network.

**'Football is a team sport and safeguarding is a team activity.'**

Last Updated – MDF 30/01/24