

Futnet UK Community Leagues CIC

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY 2026

Once a person reaches the age of 18 under U.K. law that person is legally an adult regardless of any disability or impairment they may experience. This policy is based on the following principle that all adults have the right to:

- Live their lives free from fear, violence, harassment, humiliation, degradation, abuse, and neglect;
- Be safeguarded from harm and exploitation;
- Be treated with dignity and respect, protected from mistreatment and abuse;
- Live an independent lifestyle and to make choices, even if some of those choices involve a degree of risk.

The following documents provide background information and further guidance to this policy:

- No Secrets (Dept of Health 2000)
- Safeguarding Adults National Framework of Standards (ADSS publication 2005)

This policy also covers Futnet UK Community Leagues' responsibilities in relation to recent changes in policy linked to protecting adults at risk. from extremism, extremist views and preventing radicalisation.

ADULT AT RISKS ARE DEFINED AS:

A person aged 18 years or over "who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

(The Lord Chancellors Department, 1997)

Abuse, and the fear of abuse, has a significant impact on an individual's ability to maintain and maximise their health and wellbeing. All individuals and agencies working with, and/or having contact with adults at risk, including the general public, have a key role to play in protecting vulnerable people from abuse, exploitation and/or mistreatment.

In addition all agencies responsible for the welfare and protection of adults at risk have a role in ensuring that all people have a right of expression, protection and redress regardless of: sex; race; colour; language; religion; political or other opinion; national or social origin; sexual orientation; disability; marital status; or age. Also, adults at risk may have additional and particular needs e.g. advocacy/ communication, in relation to the execution of these rights.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers employed directly by Futnet UK Community Leagues' as well as those representing Futnet UK Community Leagues' as contractors, on a full or part-time basis. It will be applied consistently regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, marital status, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, religious belief, disability or age or any other condition or requirement which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

Futnet UK Community Leagues Protection of Adults at Risk Policy represents best practice for partner and/or funded organisations that have not already developed such a policy. The policy identifies minimum operating standards for agencies or individuals funded or commissioned by Futnet UK Community Leagues' to provide services that bring employees or others into contact with adults at risk.

Appendix 1 of this policy demonstrates the varying levels of the Futnet UK Community Leagues' delivery chain, and at each stage, where this policy comes into effect.

Attached to this policy are flow diagrams that clearly define the responsibilities of Futnet UK Community Leagues staff in relation to safeguarding in the following 2 areas of Futnet UK Community Leagues work:

- Direct Delivery – e.g matches, tournaments, festivals and events

These flow diagrams are to be provided to all staff members through training during their induction to Futnet UK Community Leagues' .

Where Futnet UK Community Leagues' is directly responsible for delivery, these flow diagrams will be included in the relevant paperwork and be present in staff paperwork/briefings for the event, clarifying their Safeguarding responsibilities.

PRINCIPLES

Futnet UK Community Leagues Protection of Adults at Risk policy is guided by the following principles:

- Promote the wellbeing, security and safety of vulnerable people consistent with his or her rights, capacity and personal responsibility, and prevent abuse occurring wherever possible;
- Futnet UK Community Leagues aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all;
 - Have a positive and enjoyable experience of futnet.
 - Are protected from abuse whilst participating in a sport in any format or session

- Ensure that the processes of investigation, assessment and prevention of abuse do not constitute an abusive or harmful series of events for the vulnerable person;
- Ensure that the promotion of adults at risk protection is integral to the development and delivery of services by Futnet UK Community Leagues.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Futnet UK Community Leagues acknowledges the duty of care to Adults at Risk and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

Futnet UK Community Leagues recognises its responsibility to safeguard and promote the interests of Adults at Risk by actively promoting the following practices across the organisation;

- Identify the abuse of adults at risk where it is occurring
- Respond effectively to any circumstances giving grounds for concern or formal complaints or expressions of anxiety
- Ensure the active participation of individuals, families, groups and communities wherever possible and appropriate
- Raise awareness of the extent and impact of abuse on adults at risk;
- Promote and strengthen partnerships and actions designed to reduce abuse and the fear of abuse as experienced by adults at risk;
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the way in which policies, procedures and practices for the protection of adults at risk are working
- Regularly review and update policies, procedures and practices to reflect the current state of knowledge in relation to the protection of adults at risk, and learning gained from experience;
- Ensure that the law and statutory requirements are known and used appropriately where necessary so that adults at risk receive the protection of the law and access to the judicial process.

This Policy is supported by the Boundaries for Staff policy

PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE IN WORKING WITH VULNERABLE ADULTS

Abuse can occur within many situations including the home, school and the sporting environment. There are individuals who actively seek employment or voluntary work with Adults at Risk in order to harm or exploit them. More positively, a coach, instructor, official or volunteer having contact can play an important role in identifying cases where protection is needed.

All cases of poor practice should be reported to the appropriate person. All reports received will be reviewed by the relevant Designated Person within Futnet UK Community Leagues, who will determine the appropriate course of action.

All Futnet UK Community Leagues staff and volunteers are required to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to promote the welfare of Adults at Risk and reduce the likelihood of misinterpretation of their actions or allegations being made.

All Futnet UK Community Leagues staff and volunteers are required to comply with the Futnet UK Community Leagues Code of Conduct whilst working on behalf of the organisation.

Futnet UK Community Leagues has a role to play in ensuring high standards and good practice in working with Adults at Risk is carried out across the sport sectors. Futnet UK Community Leagues will work with partners in these sectors to share practice and learning in relation to working with Adults at Risk.

Lone Working

There are circumstances where Futnet UK Community Leagues staff members will be in situation where they are working alone. Futnet UK Community Leagues has a lone working policy.

Lone working in relation to safeguarding is when

- Staff members are in a working alone with an adult deemed as ‘At risk’
- The staff member may be put in a situation where they are isolated from others and hence alone with a young person

The details of the policy outline the precautions and actions that staff members who find themselves in this situation should take.

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The details of the policy in the appendices outline the precautions and actions that staff members who find themselves in this situation should take.

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The details of the policy outline the precautions and actions that staff members who find themselves in this situation should take.