# nbjsNewcastle Benfield Juniors FC Complaints Procedure

It is recognised that in any football club, differences and misunderstandings may arise. Successful resolution of differences depends on the willingness of the parties involved to communicate with one another. Every effort should be made to resolve disputes in an informal manner whatever issues arise. However, there will be occasions where issues cannot be resolved informally. It is the policy of Newcastle Benfield Juniors FC to provide an orderly and formal procedure to deal promptly and fairly with any Complaints. In the event that any Youth Member, Parent/Career, Club or FA Official or Coach feels that he or she has suffered discrimination, experienced or witnessed something of concern or that the Club’s Policies, Rules or Code of Conduct has been broken they should report the matter to The Club.

**Frontline Resolution**
For issues that are straightforward and easily resolved, requiring little or no investigation, a private word to The Team Coach straight away might remedy the issue or concern that has arisen. This is not to undervalue minor concerns, rather in some instances a remedy can be decided upon quickly and to the satisfaction of all (an apology, explanation or other action). A private word with the ‘frontline’ person (e.g. Coach) might be the obvious and simplest approach to take. The Club would expect the issue to be resolved within **one week**and The Coach is **required** to report to The Chairman the concern and resolution offered so that this can be agreed and recorded in The Club minutes.

**More Serious Concerns**There is always the potential for more serious concerns to arise that require a more significant intervention. In these instances, a more formal process is required so that the club can both record and address the issue or concern. Where a serious concern arises, this should be reported via the complaints form within 48 hours where possible to the Chairman of The Club or Welfare Officers of the Club. Once reported, The Chairman and the Welfare officers are collectively responsible for the investigation of the major concern and for applying the following guiding principles:

* The Complainant should be asked to make their complaint in writing via the complaints form to either The Chairman or Welfare Officer detailing their complaint, and how they can be contacted so The Club can keep them informed of progress or their complaint;
* That The Club will remain in contact with the Complainant and deal with the complaint constructively;
* The Complainant will receive timely confirmation by phone or email that The Club has received and is dealing with their complaint and that this should not be more than 5 days from receiving the complaint;
* That The Club will investigate the complaint and respond to the complaint within 15 days of receipt (either with a proposed resolution, or details of further actions to be taken);
* That The Club will investigate the complaint by looking at what might have gone wrong and/or what needs to be done to rectify the cause of the complaint. The Club will also assess whether someone has suffered any injustice, and what remedy would be fair and proportionate in the circumstances;
* The Club will consider whether to consult or inform The FA in relation to any breach of FA rules or guidelines;
* Where the complaint indicates a law may have been broken, The Club will inform the relevant statutory authority;
* Complaints that have a general significance across the Club might necessitate wider consultation, (e.g. selection process for matches) which might have implications for the interests of Parents, Youth Members and Coaches but from different perspectives, and therefore involve wider consultation and perhaps even discussion by The Club Committee;
* Sensitive complaints may need to be dealt with confidentially (e.g. that involve a Safeguarding context) and include guidance from specific Officers of The Club, e.g. Safeguarding or Respect Officer or from The FA;
* That learning from something that has gone, or is going wrong, and putting right mistakes, is paramount. Seeking to hide mistakes is counter to the wider interests of The Club, Its Youth Members and Volunteers and therefore any investigation should be open, fair and respectful to all concerned.

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Please note you may contact anyone on the above list this is just a guide