



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 must therefore be appropriately protected. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment for all members and subscribe to the FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

2- The key principles of the policy are:

- The child's welfare is the paramount consideration.
- All children and young people have the right to be protected from abuse, poor practice, neglect, bullying, harassment and exploitation, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, disability, race, nationality, ethnic background, colour, sexual orientation, marital or family status, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, socioeconomic background, or any other status.
- All suspicions, disclosures and allegations will be taken seriously, recorded appropriately and dealt promptly in accordance with The FA and statutory safeguarding procedures.
- Working in partnership with children and young people, parents/carers, The FA, the County FA and statutory organisations is essential.
- Children and young people have the right to take part, be heard, and have their views, experiences and opinions respected.

We believe every child participating in football should do so in a safe and enjoyable environment, with opportunities to develop to the best of their ability, and to be protected from poor practice or abuse. Nether Green FC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club including parents/carers of our players.

3- Safeguarding is the responsibility of every adult involved with Nether Green FC, including coaches, officials, volunteers and parents/carers. Every adult has a role in protecting children from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, bullying, exploitation and poor practice. The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations apply to those involved in football in accordance with their role and responsibilities.

4- Nether Green FC endorses The FA's safer recruitment requirements. All adults carrying out roles for which an FA-accepted Enhanced DBS check is required must hold an in-date check and meet any applicable safeguarding-training requirements. The club will follow current FA guidance when recruiting managers, coaches, assistant coaches, volunteers and other adults working with children.

If concerns arise about the suitability of an individual already involved or seeking to become involved with Nether Green FC, we will seek guidance from the County FA Designated Safeguarding Manager Sarah Pridmore.

Nether Green FC supports The FA's commitment to preventing unsuitable individuals from working with or influencing children and young people in football and will act on safeguarding

information in accordance with The FA's procedures.

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, or about safeguarding practice within the club, may report concerns through the Club Welfare Officer, the County FA, The FA Safeguarding Team (0800 1691863, Safeguarding@theFA.com), the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC as appropriate.

6- Nether Green FC has appointed a **Club Welfare Officer** (CWO) Milena De Felice. The CWO 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- Nether Green FC recognises bullying as a safeguarding concern and does not tolerate bullying of any kind. The club maintains an Anti-Bullying Policy accessible to parents/carers, players and volunteers. All incidents will be taken seriously and reported to the CWO. Serious or persistent cases may be referred to the County FA and/or statutory agencies where appropriate.

8- Nether Green FC has adopted **RESPECT** codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials, and Coaches. The club has clear procedures for dealing with repeated or serious misconduct, which may involve County FA sanctions.

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

- Report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer as soon as possible.
- For poor practice, consult the CWO, who may seek guidance from the County FA.
- If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999. **Keep the child safe and supervised where it is safe and appropriate to do so**, and inform the CWO as soon as possible
- For urgent medical treatment, call 999 and then inform the CWO of the action taken.
- For serious concerns, 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 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**.

Safeguarding contacts

The FA Safeguarding Team: 0800 1691863 | safeguarding@thefa.com | www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 | help@nspcc.org.uk

Sheffield Safeguarding Hub: 0114 273 4855 (24 hours) | sheffieldsafeguardinghub@sheffield.gov.uk

Emergency: Police / Ambulance: 999

NGFC Club Welfare Officer: Milena De Felice | 07456 215649 | welfare-milena@nethergreenfc.co.uk

County FA safeguarding: Sarah Pridmore | 07701 245976 | sarah.pridmore2@sheffieldfa.com

NB:

- Every team must have a first aid kit at all training sessions and games.
- Nether Green FC operates a minimum two-adult supervision policy for youth football activities. Adults carrying out roles for which an FA-accepted Enhanced DBS check is required must hold an in-date check in accordance with current FA requirements.
- Each team must have at least two appropriately appointed responsible adults available for training and matches, and appropriate first-aid provision must be in place. At least one appropriately qualified first aider should be available in accordance with club and competition requirements.
- **Shin guards:** Shin guards are compulsory at all Nether Green FC training sessions and matches and must comply with Law 4 of the Laws of the Game. They must be made of suitable material, be appropriately sized to provide reasonable protection to the shin, and be covered by the socks. For child and youth players, Nether Green FC does not permit micro, mini or other deliberately undersized shin guards that, in the reasonable judgement of the coach or match official, do not provide adequate protection. Players may be prevented from training or representing the club until suitable shin guards are worn. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child attends with appropriately sized protective equipment.
- A **DEFIBRILLATOR** is located at the end of the corridor in the changing room on the right, right wall as you go in. It is unlocked, suitable for adults and children, and gives verbal 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 club's defibrillator is unusable the nearest one on Saturdays is The Little Gem Café (opposite 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.

The British Heart Foundation national defibrillator network can be used to locate registered devices. Coaches should familiarise themselves with emergency access arrangements before activity begins.

Any player who develops severe chest pain, collapses, becomes unresponsive or has another medical emergency must stop activity immediately and receive appropriate emergency care. Call 999 where indicated and use the defibrillator if advised by the emergency operator or device prompts.

More info: Cardiac Risk in the Young www.c-r-y.org.uk, they offer free ECG screenings throughout the UK.

Photography, filming and online safeguarding

Photography, filming, livestreaming and the publication of images involving children must be managed in accordance with Nether Green FC's Photography and Filming Policy and current FA safeguarding guidance. No images or recordings may be taken in changing rooms, showers or toilets. Any concern about inappropriate photography, filming, online sharing or contact with a child must be reported promptly to the CWO.

'Football is a team sport, and safeguarding is a team responsibility. Every adult in our club has a duty to ensure that all children are safe, respected, and supported while playing the game they love.'