



Lydney Town AFC Youth Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Lydney Town AFC Youth Football Club (LTYFC herein), 'we', 'our', 'us', our a FA Charter Standard accredited club.

LTYFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential

We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. LTYFC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

LTYFC has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:

- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves
- Request identification documents
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them
- Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone
- Where eligible require an FA accepted Enhanced Criminal Record Check (CRC) with Barring List Check in line with current FA policy and regulations

All LTYFC members working in eligible roles, with children and young people - such as Club Officials and coaches are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced CRC with Barring List check as part of responsible recruitment practice¹.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of LTYFC, guidance will be sought from The Football Association. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the CRC Process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.

It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

LTYFC supports The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a adult in a position of trust with football can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on **0800 169 1863**, by writing to The **FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ**, by emailing **safeguarding@TheFA.com** or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

LTYFC encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

LTYFC has appointed a Club Welfare Officer in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or County FA. The Club Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Club Welfare Officer will liaise directly with the County FA (CFA) Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the Club Welfare Officer in cases of serious bullying the CFA Welfare Officer may be contacted.

Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by **LTYFC**. In order to validate these Respect codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.

A minimum of 1 committee member will be in each club social media/contact group. This is primarily for the welfare of the players as well as maintaining the reputation and standards of the club

Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns – no action is not an option.

If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.

If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either:

- Deal with the matter themselves or
- Seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer

If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer and immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care.

If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer.

If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:

- Contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly
- Contact The FA Safeguarding Team on **0800 169 1863**
- Contact the Police or Children's Social Care
- Call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on **0808 800 5000** or text **88858** or email **help@nspcc.org.uk**

¹ The FA's policy on Disclosure and Barring Service CRCs is subject to change. CRC information and guidance can be found at www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/criminal-records-checks

Arrival and Collection of Younger Players from Club Events

LTYFC provide training and games for children of many ages. Whilst every effort is made to keep children safe whilst partaking in organised activities, some of the younger players require more supervision and have different needs. It is therefore required that, where the player is of primary school age (under 11 years old) there should always be a parent or carer dropping off and collecting the child. The parent/carers should also be easily contacted by the coach.

Children within these age groups will not be released from any sessions without a parent/carers or other authorised adult collecting them. If the named parent/carers (according to the club registration form) is unable to collect the player, the coach should be informed of who will be collecting the child.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Club's Welfare Officer – Sharon Cooke, for more details. Sharon's contact details can be found on the club website.

Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

- **Sharon Cooke**
 - Club Welfare Officer
 - T| 07810 898 522
 - E| welfare@lydneytownafcyouth.co.uk

- **Chantelle Thompson**
 - County Football Association's Designated Safeguarding Officer
 - T| 01454 615 888
 - E| safeguarding@gloucestershirefa.com