

Child Protection Policy



1. Magherafelt Sky Blues Football Club 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 Irish Football Association's child protection and best practice policy and procedures and endorse and adopt the policy statement contained in that document.

2. The key principles of The IFA child protection 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 or 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.

Magherafelt Sky Blues Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3. Magherafelt Sky Blues Football Club 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 Irish Football Association's child protection regulation applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those who are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

4. We endorse and adopt The IFA's child protection and best practice guidelines for recruiting volunteers and will:

- Develop a role profile
- Request identification documents
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
- Request and follow up with two references before appointing
- Require an Pre-Employment Consultancy Service (PECS) to be completed prior to appointment

All current Magherafelt Sky Blues

Football Club members with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete a PECS form. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Magherafelt Sky Blues Football Club guidance will be sought from The Irish Football

Association. It is noted and accepted that The IFA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via PECS forms and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people.

It is accepted that The IFA 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 minimize the risk of 'grooming' within football.

5. Magherafelt Sky Blues

Football Club supports The IFA's whistle blowing policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The IFA Child Protection Manager, police, social services or the NSPCC.

Magherafelt Sky Blues Football Club encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.

6. Magherafelt Sky Blues Football Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with The IFA's role profile and required completion of the child protection and best practice workshop. The post holder will be involved with designated person's training provided by The IFA.

The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members and parents or guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. They will liaise directly with the CFA CPO and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

7. 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, parents or guardians should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO, a member of the committee or, in cases of serious bullying contact the CFA CPO.

8. Codes of conduct for players, parents or spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by Magherafelt Sky Blues Football Club. In order to validate these codes of conduct the club has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by leagues or the CFA in more serious circumstances. All prospective members will be informed of these codes.

9. Further advice on child protection matters can be obtained from:

- The Irish Football Association/NSPCC Child Protection
- The FA child protection team 0207 745 4649.

Contact Details

Magherafelt Sky Blues Club Welfare Officer is Robert Rainey. Robert can be contacted directly on 07779599132.

