



## **Safeguarding Children Policy**

Northernners AC 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. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy & 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, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.
- 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. Northernners AC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

Northernners AC 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. All current Northernners AC volunteers working with children and young people are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced Criminal Record Check (CRC) as part of responsible recruitment practice.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Northernners AC guidance will be sought from The FA. It is 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 and young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children and young people. This is to



prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of “grooming” within football.

Northernners AC supports The FA’s Whistle Blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust with football can “whistle blow” by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 1691863, by emailing [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com) or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children’s services or the NSPCC.

Northernners AC 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 will liaise directly with the County FA Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for reporting any concerns.

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.

**Respect** codes of conduct for Players. Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Northernners AC. 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.

**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.**

- I. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.
- II. 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
- III. If the concern is more serious (possible child abuse), where possible contact the CFA Welfare Officer first then immediately contact the Police or Children’s Services.
- IV. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to the hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let the Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer.



- V. If at any time you are not able to contact the Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
- Contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly on [safeguarding@GuernseyFA.com](mailto:safeguarding@GuernseyFA.com)
  - Contact the FA Safeguarding team on 0800 1691863 or [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com)
  - Contact the Police on 725111
  - Contact Children's Services Multi-Agency Support Hub on 723182 (or 725241 for out of hours emergencies)

February 2019

**NORTHERNERS ATHLETIC CLUB / FORMED 1892**

NORTHFIELD / GRAND FORT ROAD / ST SAMPSONS / GUERNSEY / GY2 4GZ

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A STANDARD CHARTERED FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CLUB

[WWW.NORTHERNERSAC.COM](http://WWW.NORTHERNERSAC.COM)

