

Haverhill Rovers Football Club

An FA Charter Community Club affiliated to Suffolk FA
working in partnership with Haverhill Community Sports Association



Whistle-Blowing Policy – How to Report Safeguarding Concerns

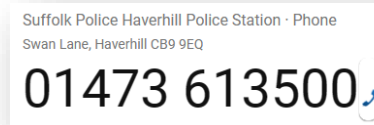
If you are worried about a child, it's vital you report your concerns. Doing nothing is not an option.

It's also important you stay calm, and if any child is present, reassure them they are not to blame. But don't make promises of confidentiality or outcome.

THERE ARE FIVE WAYS TO REPORT A CONCERN:

- To your club or league Designated Safeguarding Officers
Wall mounted contact names/numbers clearly visible in entrance lobby of The New Croft Facility. Large board displaying contacts additionally located outside the building.
- To a Suffolk FA Designated Safeguarding Officer.

- By emailing The FA Case Management Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@thefa.com
- If urgent and you cannot contact your club, league or County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer, you should call the NSPCC 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000
- If it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk, then please call the Police or Children's Social Care in the local vicinity.



Reporting A Concern

Contact a member of Suffolk FA staff -
Hayley Chart, Richard Neal, Ian Atkins or
James Morley

Tel: 01449 616606 (option 2) (Mon-Fri,
9am-5pm)

If you are seeking Safeguarding advice:

Contact safeguarding@suffolkfa.com or
call 01449 616606 (option 2)

or safeguarding@thefa.com
/ 0800 169 1863 (ext 4102)

CASE HANDLING

After I've reported a concern, then what happens?

If reported to a club, league or County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer, they will make an assessment based on their training. The assessment will classify the case as:

- High and immediate-risk;
- Medium-risk;
- Lower-risk or poor practice.

If high and immediate-risk - the statutory authorities will be informed and within 24 hours a standard referral form outlining the case will be sent to The FA Safeguarding Case Management Team

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If medium-risk: - A referral form will be sent to The FA Safeguarding Case Management Team within 24 hours and handled on a case-by-case basis.

This means it may be referred to the statutory authorities or handled by The FA and relevant County FA in the case of grassroots football, or the DSO if the incident has occurred at a professional club.

If lower-risk or poor practice: - It will be handled by the County FA in the case of grassroots football, or the club DSO if the incident occurs at a professional club.

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Concerns identified as child abuse will fall within the following five categories:

- **Physical Abuse:** A child is physically hurt or injured by an adult, or an adult gives alcohol or drugs to a child or young person.
- **Neglect:** A child's basic physical needs are consistently not met or they are regularly left alone or unsupervised.
- **Sexual Abuse:** An adult or peer uses a child or young person to meet their own sexual needs.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Persistent criticism, denigrating or putting unrealistic expectations on a child or young person.
- **Bullying:** Persistent or repeated hostile and intimidating behaviour towards a child or young person.

WHAT IS HAZING?

Hazing is any action or situation, with or without the consent of the participants, which recklessly, intentionally, or unintentionally endangers the mental, physical, or emotional wellbeing of a child or young person. Hazing is not tolerated in affiliated football.

WITHIN FOOTBALL POOR PRACTICE IS DEFINED AS:

- When insufficient care is taken to avoid injuries (e.g. by excessive training or inappropriate training for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players).
- Allowing abusive or concerning practices to go unreported (e.g. a coach who ridicules and criticizes players who make a mistake during a match).
- Allowing hazing practices to go unreported.
- Placing children or young people in potentially compromising and uncomfortable situations with adults (e.g. inappropriate use by a coach of social media with a young player(s)).
- Ignoring health and safety guidelines (e.g. allowing young players to set up goal posts unsupervised by adults).
- Failing to adhere to the club's codes of practice (e.g. openly verbally abusing the referee);
- Giving continued and unnecessary preferential treatment to individuals.

Please note – this list is not exhaustive.

Incidents of poor practice occur when the needs of children and young people are not afforded the necessary priority, so their welfare is compromised.



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WHAT IS WHISTLE-BLOWING?

'Whistle-blowing' in a safeguarding context means revealing and raising concerns over misconduct or malpractice within an organisation, or within an independent structure associated with it.

It can be used as an early-warning system or when it's recognised that appropriate actions have not been taken. This approach or policy is adopted in many different walks of life.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague's conduct towards a child or young person can also use 'whistle-blowing' by emailing: Safeguarding@TheFA.com

Alternatively, concerns can be reported:

- Direct to the local Police or Children's Social Care services, or
- The Child Protection in Sport Unit at cpsu@nspcc.org.uk or The NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or email: help@nspcc.org.uk

KEEP FOOTBALL FUN, SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL.

