



AMATEUR FOOTBALL COMBINATION

www.amateurfootballcombination.com

Amateur Football Combination Child Protection Statement

Every child or young person, defined as anyone under the age of 18, who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football.

The Amateur Football Combination ('AFC') is a competition in which people from very diverse backgrounds and wide age ranges take part. Many AFC clubs run youth sections and the AFC aims to maintain standards of football which will provide an ideal environment for Clubs to introduce youth players into senior football. The AFC places high priority on ensuring that member Clubs maintain high standards of care and protection for young people.



The AFC recognises its responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

These principles apply to anyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity including club volunteers, referees, club officials, helpers on club tours, football coaches and medical staff.

Advice to Clubs - Best Practice for Young People Participating in AFC Football

- No "under 14" (any player who had not reached his 14th birthday on 31st August of the season concerned) should participate in any AFC game (i.e. in Senior Football).
- "Young people" includes anyone under the age of 18.
- Where possible, young people should not share changing facilities with adults.
- Where possible, an adult should not travel alone to a game with young people to whom he is not related.
- Young people must not be subjected to bullying whether physical, verbal or emotional. The AFC will investigate all cases of alleged bullying and take any action necessary to ensure child protection.
- All clubs are encouraged to appoint their own Child Protection Officer who has attended the Football Association's Child Protection Course and completed a Criminal Records Bureau Check.

Anyone having any concerns about the welfare of a young person should contact the appropriate authority/officer without delay.

The Football Association – Policy on Child Protection

The Football Association will consider, having taken advice, whether anyone who has a previous criminal conviction or caution for offences related to the abuse of children or young people, violence or any sexual offences should be excluded from working with children and young people. This position is reinforced by UK legislation and guidance.

Comprehensive guidance on the implementation of the Child Protection policy is contained in a booklet, the F.A. Child Protection Procedures Handbook, available from the Head of Education and Child Protection, The Football Association, Lillleshall Hall, National Sports Centre, nr Newport, TF10 9AT.

The AFC will support the Football Association by whatever means necessary to ensure child protection in football.

The Child Protection Helpline

The Football Association/NSPCC Child Protection helpline, which is open 24 hours a day and run on an entirely confidential basis, can be contacted on 0808 800 5000 (textphone 0800 056 0566 for deaf users).

Any queries should be directed to your County F.A. Child Protection Officer, the Amateur Football Combination Child Protection Officer, Danny McConnell, on 07932 626 716 or to your own club Child Protection Officer.

GOAL

GOAL is the name of the Football Association's Child Protection campaign. The objective is to have someone at every club in the country aware of child protection and best practice, whether it's a Premiership Academy or a Sunday morning park side.

GOAL is about doing things the right way, doing things properly. It's about allowing children to enjoy the game without abuse of any kind. That means bullying, physical, emotional or sexual abuse and neglect.

For more details of GOAL see the FA Website or contact the Amateur Football Alliance.

CRB (Criminal Records Bureau)

CRB checks are being conducted for everyone involved in football who have access to children. CRB checks are a way of checking people's history to make sure they do not have any convictions that might mean they are not safe to work with children.

The FA only uses checks called *Enhanced Disclosures* which are currently renewable after three years. For more details about CRB Checks see the FA Website or contact the Amateur Football Alliance.

Useful Addresses

Football Association Child Protection Department: 25 Soho Square, London, W1D 4FA.
Telephone: 0207 745 4909. Website: www.thefa.com/goal

The FA/NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000. Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

Amateur Football Alliance, 55 Islington Park Street, London, N1 1QB. Tel: 020 7359 3493.
Website: www.amateur-fa.com