



# Gildersome Spurs Junior Football Club



## Adults at Risk Policy

### **POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK**

#### **Policy Statement**

Gildersome Spurs Junior Football Club (GSJFC) is committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for all adults involved in football. We recognise our duty of care towards all adults, including, players, coaches, volunteers, parents, carers, and any adult participants in Club activities.

We adopt The Football Association's Safeguarding Adults Policy and Guidance, and believe that:

- Everyone has the right to take part in football free from abuse, harm, or neglect.
- Safeguarding adults is everyone's responsibility.
- The Club will take all concerns seriously and act swiftly and appropriately.

#### **Who this Policy Applies To**

- Adult players or participants in football activities.
- Coaches, managers, referees, and volunteers.
- Parents and carers.
- Committee members and visitors to the Club.

#### **Definition of an "Adult at Risk"**

In line with FA guidance, an adult at risk is a person aged 18 or over who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting those needs).
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- As a result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect.

## **Types of Abuse (Adults)**

Abuse can take many forms, including:

- Physical abuse – hitting, pushing, misuse of medication.
- Emotional abuse – intimidation, humiliation, isolation.
- Sexual abuse – unwanted touching, sexual assault, harassment.
- Financial abuse – theft, fraud, misuse of property or money.
- Neglect – failure to meet basic needs, ignoring medical or care requirements.
- Discriminatory abuse – harassment or bullying based on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or age.
- Organisational abuse – poor practices within a group or service setting.

## **Our Commitment**

- To ensure all adults can enjoy football in a safe environment.
- To promote a culture where everyone feels able to raise concerns.
- To ensure that safeguarding adults is embedded in all club practices and procedures.
- To provide access to appropriate training for coaches and volunteers.
- To follow FA referral procedures if a safeguarding concern arises.

## **Reporting Concerns**

If you are worried about an adult, or if an adult discloses something to you, you should:

1. Report it immediately to the Gildersome Spurs JFC Club Welfare Officer
  - Amy May – Gildersome Spurs Junior Football Club Welfare Officer Tel: 07738930775 Email: [welfare@gildersomespursjfc.co.uk](mailto:welfare@gildersomespursjfc.co.uk)
2. If the concern is urgent or someone is in immediate danger, call 999.
  - The Welfare Officer will follow FA safeguarding procedures, which may include contacting:

The County FA Welfare Team - Paul Ratcliffe – West Riding County FA Welfare Officer Email [paul.ratcliffe@wrcfa.com](mailto:paul.ratcliffe@wrcfa.com)

- The FA Safeguarding Team
- Local Adult Safeguarding Board
- Police or social services

All concerns will be taken seriously, treated confidentially, and recorded in line with FA procedures.

When responding to concerns, Gildersome Spurs Juniors Football Club will put the needs of the adult first, work in their best interests and consider the six principles of safeguarding adults detailed in the Care Act 2014: empowerment; protection; prevention; proportionality; partnership; and accountability. These principles will underpin all work with Adults at Risk.

1 The Care Act 2014

2 Mental Capacity Act, 2005

## **Whistleblowing**

Whistleblowing 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 adult at risk can also use whistleblowing by calling **0800 169 1863** and asking for The FA's safeguarding team, or via email to: [Safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:Safeguarding@TheFA.com)

Alternatively, concerns can be reported:

- Direct to the local Police or Social Care services;

## **Responsibilities**

- Club Committee: Ensure safeguarding adults policy is implemented and reviewed.
- Welfare Officer: Lead on safeguarding, provide advice, manage referrals, and liaise with FA and statutory agencies.
- Coaches/Managers/Volunteers: Promote safe practices, complete safeguarding training, and report concerns.

- Members/Parents/Carers: Support the Club's safeguarding principles and report concerns promptly.

### **Safer Recruitment & Training**

- All staff and volunteers working with adults at risk will be appropriately vetted (e.g. FA DBS checks if eligible).
- Coaches and volunteers will be encouraged to complete the FA's Safeguarding Adults Training.

### **Monitoring & Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Club Committee and Welfare Officer to ensure it remains compliant with FA and statutory safeguarding requirements. Updates will be communicated to all members.

**SIGNED CHAIRMAN:**



JONATHAN MOXON



## **Gildersome Spurs Junior**

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