



Child Protection Policy Document V.2.0 Summer 2023

EBBSFLEET UNITED WOMEN & YOUTH

Introduction

Ebbsfleet United Women Football Club (EUWFC) Youth is committed to providing a safe environment for all players, coaches, volunteers, parents, guardians and spectators.

The Club acknowledges their responsibility to safeguarding the welfare of every child and young person, aged under 18 years old, who has been assigned to our care and who has been entrusted to engage in any club football activities that EUWFC deliver.

Policy Details

The key principles of The FA 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. EUWFC Youth recognises that this is the responsibility of **every adult** involved in our club.



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Responsibilities

EUWFC Youth 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 Football Association's child protection regulation (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those who are a volunteer, match official, football coach, or club official.

We endorse and adopt The FA'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 FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines.

EUWFC Youth members with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure via The FA CRB Unit. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of EUWFC Youth, guidance will be sought from the Football Association. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via The FA CRB Unit Enhanced CRB Disclosure and that all decisions will be made 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 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 minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.



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Whistleblowing

EUWFC Youth supports The FA's whistle blowing policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA child protection manager on 0207 745 4771, by writing to The FA case manager at The Football Association, 25 Soho Square, London W1D 4FA, or by going direct to the police, social services, or the NSPCC.

EUWFC Youth encourages everyone to know about and utilise this channel, if necessary.

Designated Safeguarding Officials

EUWFC Youth has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with The FA'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 FA. 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 County Football Association Child Protection Officer (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.

For reference, The current EUWFC Youth Safeguarding Officer is:- **Sarah-Jane Heber-Hall O'Neill**. Sarah-Jane can be contacted by email at safeguarding.euwfc@gmail.com or by phone on **07736 369 652**.

Bullying

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.



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Codes of Conduct

EUWFC Youth have implemented codes of conduct, based on the FA guidelines, for players, parents, or spectators, officials, and coaches. In order to foster and 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, and copies are available electronically, on request.

Further advice on child protection matters can be obtained from: The County Football Association's Child Protection Officer, whose details can be found in the County Handbook; The Football Association/NSPCC Child Protection 24-Hour Helpline 0808 800 5000; www.TheFA.com/Goal ; The FA Child Protection Team 0207 745 4649.

Amendments of this Policy

We may amend this Policy at any time, however if we do, then we will inform you and will place a revised version of the Policy on the EUWFC Website.