



WELLINGTON AFC CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Every child and young person who plays football should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football within the club.

The club however, recognise that child abuse is also a very emotive and difficult subject. It is important to understand the feelings involved but not to allow them to interfere with our judgement about any action to be taken.

Wellington Association Football Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual, or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

It is determined to meet its obligation to ensure that in providing football opportunities for children and young people we do so to the highest possible standard of care.

Clear practices and procedures, in addition to a detailed training programme already under way, will ensure that everyone knows exactly what is expected of them in relation to the protection of children and young people within our sport.

It is essential that those children and young people attracted to and participating in football are able to do so in a quality, safe, and enjoyable environment.

In striving to do this Wellington Association Football Club has the following objectives:

- To provide ongoing development and training opportunities to all its coaches/managers
- To develop a positive and pro-active position in order to best protect all children and young people who play football, enabling them to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- To demonstrate best practice in the area of child protection
- To promote ethics and high standards throughout the club

The key principles underpinning this 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 identity.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. Working in partnership with children and young people and their parents/carers is essential.

The Football Association's Regulations on Child Protection are defined in the Football Association Handbook.

1. Any act, statement, conduct, or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk to harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression 'offence' shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes the club to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by the club of:
 - 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an offence; or
 - 3.2 notification, that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, social services, or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
 - 3.3 any other information which causes the club reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or childrenthen, the club shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made the club shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:-
 - 4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
 - 4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;
 - 4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by the club or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of the Football Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.
6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, the Football Association will bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of the Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Where a person is convicted or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of the Association and the Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football for such period, (including indefinitely), and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
8. For the purposes of these Regulations, the Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.