



Royal Wootton Bassett Town FC Safeguarding Children Policy

1. PURPOSE

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) [Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures](#) and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2. SCOPE

The key principles of the Safeguarding Children 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, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief
- 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/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. Royal Wootton Bassett Town Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Football Club 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 Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility if you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns – no action is not an option.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1. All current Royal Wootton Bassett Town Football Club members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of children and



Royal Wootton Bassett Town FC Safeguarding Children Policy

young people will be required to complete a CRB Enhanced Disclosure via The FA CRB Unit 1. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Royal Wootton Bassett Town Football Club, 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 Disclosure and that all decisions will be made in the best interests of children and young people.

- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:
- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves;
 - Request identification documents;
 - As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them;
 - Ask for and follow up with two references before appointing someone;
 - Require an FA CRB Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA policy.
- 4.4. Royal Wootton Bassett Town Football Club supports The FA's Whistle-blowing Policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0844 980 8200 4787, via email on safeguarding@TheFA.com, or by writing to:
- The FA Case Manager
The Football Association,
Wembley Stadium,
PO Box 1966,
London
SW10 9EQ
- or, alternatively, by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.
- Royal Wootton Bassett Town Football Club encourages everyone to know about The FA's whistle-blowing line and utilise it if necessary.
- 4.5. Royal Wootton Bassett Town Football Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or County FA.



Royal Wootton Bassett Town FC Safeguarding Children Policy

The Club Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Club Welfare Officer will liaise directly with the County FA (CFA) Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

- 4.6. 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 or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the Club Welfare Officer in cases of serious bullying the CFA Welfare Officer may be contacted.
- 4.7. **Respect** codes of conduct for players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by Royal Wootton Bassett Town Football Club. In order to validate these **Respect** codes of conduct, the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.
- 4.8. **Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person.**
- 4.8.1. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.
- 4.8.2. If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either:
- deal with the matter themselves or
 - seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer
- 4.8.3. If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
- 4.8.4. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer.
- 4.8.5. If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
- contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly
 - contact the Police or Children's Social Care
 - call the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on **0808 800 5000** or text **88858** or email help@nspcc.org.uk



Royal Wootton Bassett Town FC Safeguarding Children Policy

Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

Royal Wootton Bassett Town FC

Contact: Mari Green / Ian Thomas (Welfare Officers)

Telephone: 07712 581384 / 07714 718122

Email: mari.green@rwbtfc.co.uk / ian.thomas@rwbtfc.co.uk

Wiltshire County Football Association's Welfare Officer

Contact: Maria Lai / Blair Keltie

Telephone: 07340 272564

Email: maria.lai@wiltshirefa.com / blair.keltie@wiltshirefa.com / safeguarding@wiltshirefa.com

The FA

Website: www.TheFA.com/Footballsafes

Emailing: Footballsafes@TheFA.com

Telephone: The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0845 210 8080

Endorsed by:

Signed: (Club Secretary) _____ *I Thomas* _____ Date: ___27/05/2020___

Signed: (Club Chairman) _____ *A Walduck* _____ Date: ___27/05/2020___