



## Sporting Weston F.C. Safeguarding Policy

*This is in addition to and complimentary to any football league requirements*

### Purpose and Aims

Sporting Weston F.C (the club) is committed to Safeguarding and acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and adult at risk that attend our setting. We recognise that a child is anyone under the age of 18 and subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure.

This Policy aims to ensure that:

- Every child and adult at risk has the right to be protected from abuse and exploitation.
- All our children and adults at risk are safe and protected from harm.
- The club adopts safe practices and ensures other Policies and Procedures are in place to enable children and adults at risk to feel safe.
- Staff, players, directors, coaches, children, trustee's, visitors, volunteers, and parents are aware of the expected behaviours and our legal responsibilities in relation to promoting the safeguarding and welfare of our children and adults at risk.

### Ethos

Safeguarding is considered everyone's responsibility and as such the club's aim is to create the safest environment within which every child and adult at risk can achieve their full potential.

The club recognises the contribution it can make to ensure that all children and adults at risk who use our settings feel that they will be listened to, and appropriate action taken.

### Responsibilities and Expectations

The club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of children and adults at risk by protecting them from physical, sexual, or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations ( <https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook>) apply to everyone in football, including coaches/managers, match officials, helpers or other club officials.

It is the responsibility of the Sporting Weston F.C Committee is to ensure the following:

- That appropriate checks are carried out on all staff and volunteers before they are allowed to work with children or adults at risk.
- That appropriate procedures are in place for handling allegations of abuse made against members of Sporting Weston F.C (this includes coaches/managers and other volunteers).
- To ensure the safe and appropriate use of cameras, mobile phones, technology, and online equipment. All volunteers and staff are required to adhere to this policy.



## Welfare Officers

The club has appointed two Welfare Officers: Abby Dobson and Laura Argrave. The Welfare Officers are required to have ongoing training with The FA and have the responsibility for dealing with all safeguarding issues, and completing the FA DBS checks for the Club.

The Welfare Officers are the first point of contact for all Club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or adult at risk. All Child Protection concerns need to be acted on immediately. If you are concerned about a child or adult at risk, you must tell a Welfare Officer immediately.

Although the Welfare Officers are the first point of contact for all safeguarding concerns, Sporting Weston FC recognises that it is the responsibility of every member of the Club to ensure that children and adults at risk can participate in football in a safe environment. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option.

## Training

The Welfare Officers will ensure that all managers, coaches, volunteers, and helpers have the appropriate Safeguarding training. This training sets out clearly what they need to do should a disclosure be made. The welfare of the child (or the adult at risk) is paramount throughout and all disclosures will be listened to and reported to the Welfare Officers, or the County FA Welfare Officer if appropriate.

As part of the induction process for all new Club members, Sporting Weston F.C will ensure that this Policy is shared and will highlight that the safety of children, young people and adults at risk is paramount and very much part of the Club's ethos.

The Welfare Officers, managers, coaches, other volunteers, along with all the Committee members will undertake Safeguarding training as required by the Somerset FA. This will be undertaken at least every three years and ensures that there is an awareness and understanding of the Safeguarding agenda within football in the UK.

All new members to Sporting Weston F.C will receive a copy of this Safeguarding Policy, and it will be available on the Sporting Football F.C website. We are also able to arrange for this Policy to be made available to those whose first language is not English, upon request.

## Whistle Blowing

Sporting Weston F.C supports the FA Whistle Blowing Policy, which means that any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football can 'whistle blow' by contacting the FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or by emailing [safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:safeguarding@TheFA.com).

Alternatively, they can report their concerns to the Sporting Weston F.C Welfare Officers (although this may not be deemed appropriate), the County FA Welfare Officer, or go directly to the Police or the NSPCC.



Sporting Weston F.C encourages everyone to know about the FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

## Signs, Symptoms and Effects of Abuse

As Sporting Weston F.C deems safeguarding to be everyone's responsibility, it is important that all Club members are aware of the signs, symptoms, and effects of abuse.

The signs of child abuse are not always obvious, and a child might not tell anyone what is happening to them. Children might be scared that the abuser will find out, worried that the abuse will get worse, or they might think that there is no-one they can tell or that they will not be believed. The effects of abuse may be short term or may last a long time, and sometimes into adulthood. Adults who were abused as children may also need advice and support.

This is why all potential safeguarding disclosures are taken seriously by Sporting Weston F.C.

The NSPCC, the National Crime Agency and The FA have useful information and support on their websites:

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

[www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding](http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding)

[www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/)

## Managing Allegations

We are aware of the possibility of allegations being made against members of Sporting Weston F.C (this includes managers, coaches, Welfare Officers, other volunteers or potentially other players or parents of players).

This could include inappropriate behaviour, sexual comments, excessive one to one attention (beyond the requirements of coaching) or the inappropriate sharing of images.

Allegations are made for a variety of reasons and will always be taken seriously by Sporting Weston F.C. The allegation will be treated sensitively and in confidence, and only shared with the appropriate Committee members. If deemed necessary, the matter will be reported to the County FA Welfare Officer, The FA Safeguarding Team, and the Police.

## Related Setting Policies

Safeguarding covers more than the contribution made to Child Protection in relation to individual children or adults at risk. It also encompasses issues such as child health and safety, bullying and a range of other issues, for example, arrangements for meeting the medical needs of children, providing first aid, setting security, drugs, alcohol, and substance misuse, etc.

It also includes adults at risk (vulnerable adults) and those at risk because of drugs, alcohol, and substance misuse.



The following includes all the Policies that Sporting Weston F.C has in place:

1. Safeguarding Children Policy
2. Code of Conduct (Ethics)
3. Equality Policy
4. Health and Safety Policy
5. Data Protection Policy
6. Environmental Policy
7. Constitution
8. Photography/Images & Social Media Policy

*The above list is not exhaustive and as new policy guidance and legislation develops within the remit of Safeguarding, we will review and update our Policies and Procedures as appropriate and in line with the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board and Local Authority.*

*This Safeguarding Policy acts as the overarching Safeguarding Policy for both Sporting Weston Football Club.*

For further information regarding any child protection procedure within the Southwest, please consult: [www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk).

## Relevant Legislation or Regulations

- Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- The Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Crime & Disorder Act 1998
- FA Safeguarding Children Rules ([www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding](http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding))
- FA Respect Code of Conducts
- Human Rights Act 1998 ([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents))
- Police Act 1997 ([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/50/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/50/contents))
- Protection of Children Act 1999 ([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/14/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/14/contents))
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 ([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/9/part/5/enacted](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/9/part/5/enacted))
- Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 ([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/53](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/53))
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006  
([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/47/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/47/contents))
- Sexual Offences Act 2003 ([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/contents))
- Youth Evidence & Crime Evidence Act 1999  
([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/23/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/23/contents))
- Keeping Children Safe in Education Sept 2016
- Equality Act 2010 ([www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance))



## Sporting Weston Safeguarding Contacts

### Abby Dobson

Club Welfare Officer/DBS Verifier

T: 0781 0797 403

E: [abbydobson1979@gmail.com](mailto:abbydobson1979@gmail.com)

### Laura Argrave

Club Welfare Officer/DBS Verifier

T: 0774 7651 526

E: [laurajargrave@icloud.com](mailto:laurajargrave@icloud.com)

## External Contacts

### Country FA Welfare Officer

#### Shirley Needham

Office: 01458 837 034

Mobile: 07535 664 988

[Shirley.Needham@somersetfa.com](mailto:Shirley.Needham@somersetfa.com)

You can call the **NSPCC 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000** or if it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk, then call the Police.

**Police:** In case of an emergency call **999**

**NSPCC:** 24-hour helpline **0808 800 5000**

The following is a specific helpline that the FA has commissioned the NSPCC to set up to help people to come forward: 0800 023 2642.

If you are concerned that someone may be behaving inappropriately or seeking to groom a child in an online environment, you can report a concern about child sexual abuse or online exploitation to the CEOP (Child Protection and Online Protection) safety centre. All reports are assessed and responded to by CEOP's specialist Child Protection Advisors. If a police response is necessary, it would be conducted in partnership with your local police force.

**We want you to feel confident in football and to know that your child will have fun and be safe.**

**Please remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

**Non-action is not an option**