



# Respect



A Charter Standard Development Club

## EB Lions AFC – Safeguarding Policy

EB Lions AFC acknowledges that every child or young person under the age of 18, who plays for EB Lions should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. EB Lions recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

EB Lions is responsible 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 and to protect them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

We subscribe to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children - Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

EB Lions are aware that there are some roles within sport where adults have responsibility for, authority and influence over young people and therefore have an ethical obligation to safeguard and protect young people from exploitation. Whilst legally young people aged 16 and 17 have reached the age of consent for sexual activity, any inappropriate sexual relations with young people aged 16 or 17 will be considered a breach of a 'Position of Trust' within affiliated football and will be referred to the appropriate football regulatory authorities and may also be referred to the statutory agencies.

Concerns identified as child abuse will fall within the following categories:

**Physical Abuse:** A child is physically hurt or injured by an adult or an adult gives alcohol or drugs to a child or young person.

**Neglect:** A child's basic physical needs are consistently not met or they are regularly left alone or unsupervised.

**Sexual Abuse:** An adult or peer uses a child or young person to meet their own sexual needs.

**Emotional Abuse:** Persistent criticism, denigrating or putting unrealistic expectations on a child or young person.

**Bullying:** Persistent or repeated hostile and intimidating behaviour towards a child or young person. Incidents of poor practice occur when the needs of children and young people are not afforded the necessary priority, so as their welfare is compromised. Hazing is any action or situation, with or without the consent of the participants, which recklessly, intentionally, or unintentionally endangers the mental, physical, or emotional wellbeing of a child or young person. Hazing is not tolerated in affiliated football.

All current EB Lions members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of children and young people are required to complete a DBS check. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has applied to us to become part of EB Lions guidance will be sought from The FA.



It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the DBS 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.

### **EB Lions supports The FA's Whistle blowing Policy**

Any adult or young person with concerns about any member of EB Lions can also use whistle-blowing by calling 0800 169 1863 and asking for The FA's safeguarding team, or via email on [safeguarding@TheFA.com](mailto:safeguarding@TheFA.com).

Alternatively you can go direct the Police or Children's Social Care and report your concerns there, or to the Child Protection in Sport Unit via [cpsu@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:cpsu@nspcc.org.uk) or the NSPCC Helpline via **0808 800 5000** or by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

EB Lions has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) 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. The CWO is the first point of contact for all Club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person by emailing [childwelfare@eblions.co.uk](mailto:childwelfare@eblions.co.uk).

The CWO will liaise directly with the Designated Safeguarding Officer at the FA 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 EB Lions members.

### **Reporting concerns about the welfare of a child or young person**

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.

If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the CWO if the issue is one of poor practice they will either:

- deal with the matter themselves
- seek advice from the DSO at the FA if the concern is more serious - possible child abuse - they will, where possible, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services
- If the child needs immediate medical treatment will take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern.

If at any time you are not able to contact your CWO or the matter is serious then you can either:

- Call FA/NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000
- contact the Police or Children's Services. Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from: [www.thefa.com](http://www.thefa.com)
- Sarah DaCosta – Bedfordshire FA Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO): [safeguarding@bedfordshirefa.com](mailto:safeguarding@bedfordshirefa.com)

Organisation who support children include:

- NSPCC
- Childline
- CEOP

- ChildNet
- Samaritans
- Stonewall
- YoungMinds
- DirespectNoBody

### **Photography & Video recording**

From time to time EB Lions will publicise digital pictures of teams or children on our club's website or facebook page. Signing the club registration form acknowledges this and grants permission for images of the player to be used for this purpose.

EB Lions requests to be advised in writing should any parent/guardian **NOT** want images of their child published in any Club literature.

EB Lions recognises the need to ensure the welfare and safety of all young people in football. As part of its commitment to ensure the safety of young people will not permit photographs, video or other images of young people to be taken without the consent of the parents/carers and the young person, which is given as stated above.

This policy complies with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the FA's policies on Child Protection. EB Lions will follow the guidance of The FA for the use of images of children and young people and will take all steps to ensure these images are used solely for the purpose they are intended which the promotion and celebration of the activities of EB Lions. No addresses or contact details or names of individuals will be published.

Should anyone become aware that images are being used inappropriately they should inform the Child Welfare Officer or any Executive Committee Member of the club immediately. Any contact will be treated with discretion.

Use of images of children/young people under the age of 18 EB Lions and the FA promotes "Ten Golden Rules" to remember when planning to use images of young people under the age of 18, which EB Lions follow:

1. All children must be appropriately dressed.
2. Photography or recording should focus on the activity not on a particular player.
3. Images should focus on small groups rather than individuals.
4. Images of a child who is under a court order should never be used.
5. If a player is named avoid using their photograph.
6. Use their first name only. Personal details should never be revealed.
7. Makes sure parents/guardians/players have consented on the registration form
8. Use photographs that represent the broad range of youngsters participating in football.
9. All people taking photographs or recording footage at a football event should register with the event organiser.
10. All concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the EB Lions Child Welfare Officer.

EB Lions recognises the need to ensure the welfare and safety of all players in football.

EB Lions will ensure that once a player is no longer a member of the Club then any individual images

of him/her on the website will be removed immediately, or with the parent/guardian and players consent at the end of that year's football season. If at any other time either the parent/guardian or player wishes images to be removed from the EB Lions website for any child welfare issue, the image will be removed as soon as possible after receiving a written request from the parent/guardian. This would normally be expected to be within one week.

