



## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY AND PROCEDURES

**Bicester Park FC** takes its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care very seriously 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. 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.

**Bicester Park FC** acknowledges that child safeguarding is the responsibility of every adult involved in our Club. The 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 Child Protection Regulation (see The FA Handbook available online via the FA website) 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.

For advice on Safeguarding Children:

- [welfare@bicesterparkfc.co.uk](mailto:welfare@bicesterparkfc.co.uk) contact the Bicester Park FC Welfare team
- If you still have a question about safeguarding or player welfare for the Oxfordshire FA: contact to Nigel: Oxfordshire FA's Education, Safeguarding and Referee Support Manager, Nigel Saverton, is on hand to help with anything you need. Email: [safeguarding@oxfordshirefa.com](mailto:safeguarding@oxfordshirefa.com) or call 07852 722540
- National FA website: [Safeguarding - Rules & Regulations | The Football Association \(thefa.com\)](https://www.thefa.com/safeguarding)
- The FA/NSPCC 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000 Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

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

[Reporting your 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 Club Welfare Officer (CWO), see information box above.
- If the issue is one of poor practice they will either:
  - Deal with the matter themselves or

- Seek advice from the County FA Welfare Officer
  - If the concern is more serious - possible child abuse - they will, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services
  - 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 CWO / CFA Welfare Officer know what action you have taken.
  - If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
    - a. contact your County FA Welfare Officer directly (see info box below)
    - b. contact the Police or Children's Social Care (999 for emergency response, 101 for non-urgent Police response)
    - c. call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

**The Key Principles of The FA 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, 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/carers is essential.

**Bicester Park FC's Recruitment guidelines and CRB checks:**

- 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 where possible
- Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines and statutory requirements.

All our current members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of 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 our club, 3 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.

**Please note:** The policy on CRB Enhanced Disclosures will be subject to change, in light of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. Further information will be provided on this via TheFA.com and via the County FA Welfare Officers.

### [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, by writing to The FA Case Manager at 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. Our club encourages everyone to know about this information and utilise it if necessary.

The Club 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 and/or CFA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all Club committee members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The CWO will liaise directly with the 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 their Club members.

### [Bullying](#)

We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable in our league. 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 CWO or alternatively, in cases of serious bullying, we may contact the CFA Welfare Officer.

### [Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches](#)

The Club has implemented the FA Respect rules. 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 CFA in more serious circumstances. All registering members will be required to adopt the Respect codes.