



Fun | Friends | Football
Where Football Meets Friendship
Footy Friends United Ltd

www.footyfriendsunited.co.uk | info@footyfriendsunited.co.uk

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Footy Friends United Ltd is firmly committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child who attends our sessions, camps and events. The safety and wellbeing of children are central to all decisions and activities. We aim to provide a safe, positive and inclusive environment in which every child is respected, listened to, supported and able to participate with confidence.

Scope: This policy applies to all directors, coaches, assistants, employees, contractors, volunteers and any other person involved in activities delivered on behalf of Footy Friends United Ltd. Everyone covered by this policy has a responsibility to recognise, respond to and report safeguarding concerns promptly.

Designated Safeguarding Lead and Welfare Officer: The Director is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and the main point of contact for safeguarding matters within Footy Friends United Ltd. The DSL is responsible for receiving and responding to concerns, maintaining secure records, supporting staff and volunteers, and making referrals to the appropriate agencies where necessary. The organisation also has a suitably qualified and trained Welfare Officer who supports the wellbeing of children attending our activities. Safeguarding concerns should be reported promptly to the DSL using the contact details below.

Safeguarding Standards: Footy Friends United Ltd will maintain robust safeguarding arrangements, including appropriate enhanced DBS checks for eligible roles; current safeguarding training; access to first-aid trained staff; suitable coach-to-child ratios; clear behaviour expectations; safe recruitment and induction procedures; appropriate supervision; and responsible use of mobile phones, cameras and other devices around children. Safeguarding practice will be reviewed regularly and any identified risk will be addressed promptly.

Code of Conduct: Coaches and volunteers must maintain professional boundaries, treat children with dignity and respect, use appropriate language, avoid unnecessary physical contact, and follow venue guidance on changing areas. One-to-one situations should be avoided wherever possible; where they are necessary, they must take place in an open or observable environment. Bullying, discrimination, intimidation, degrading treatment and any form of abuse will not be tolerated.

Photography, Digital Communication and Social Media: Images or recordings of children will only be taken and used where appropriate consent has been obtained and will be stored, shared and published responsibly. Staff and volunteers must not use personal accounts or private messages to communicate inappropriately with children and must follow the organisation's agreed communication arrangements.

Responding to and Reporting Concerns: Every concern, disclosure or allegation will be taken seriously, recorded accurately and reported without delay. Staff and volunteers must not investigate concerns themselves or promise confidentiality; they should listen calmly, reassure the child that they have done the right thing by speaking up, and pass the information to the DSL. Where a child may be at immediate risk, the emergency services must be contacted. Where required, the DSL will refer the matter to the relevant local authority safeguarding service, the police, the governing body or another appropriate agency.

Confidentiality and Record Keeping: Safeguarding information will be handled sensitively, recorded factually, stored securely and shared only on a need-to-know basis or where disclosure is necessary to protect a child. Records will be retained and managed in accordance with applicable legal and organisational requirements.

Policy Review: This policy will be reviewed at least annually and sooner following a safeguarding incident, a significant organisational change, updated statutory guidance or an identified gap in practice. Relevant staff and volunteers will be informed of material changes and provided with any necessary guidance or training.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

Kevin Lenton, Director, Footy Friends United Ltd

Contact:

Email: info@footyfriendsunited.co.uk

Phone: 07405612951

Signed

KL

Director, Footy Friends United Ltd

Last Reviewed: October 2026

Next Review Due: October 2027