

## **Child Protection Policy**

Every young person, defined, as anyone under the age of 18 years, who plays or participates in any way in football should be able to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football.

The Peterborough & District Football League is a competition in which people from very diverse backgrounds and wide age ranges take part. Many Peterborough & District Football League clubs run youth sections and the Peterborough & District Football League aims to ensure that the competition provided a safe environment for Clubs to introduce youth players into senior football. The Peterborough & District Football League places high priority on ensuring that members Clubs maintain high standards of care and protection for young people.

The Peterborough & District Football League recognises its responsibilities to safeguard with welfare of all young people by protecting them, as far as is possible, from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

These principles apply to anyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity and include club volunteers, match officials, club officials, coaches and medical staff.

### **Advice to Clubs – Best Practice for Young People Participating in Peterborough & District Football League Football.**

No “under 16” (any player who had not reached his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday on 31<sup>st</sup> August of the season concerned) should participate in any Peterborough & District Football League game (i.e. in adult/U18 football). “Young people” includes anyone under the age of 18 years.

Where possible, young people should not share changing facilities with adults (where this is not possible, care should be taken to ensure more than one responsible adult is present when the young person is changing).

The use of cameras and mobile phones with video or picture capability should be banned in changing rooms where young people are changing.

Unless exceptional circumstances exist (and in this event advice should always be sought from a Club official) an adult should not travel alone to or from a game or training with a young person to whom she/he is not related (this advice applies to all journeys)

Young people must not be subjected to bullying whether physical, verbal or emotional. The Peterborough & District Football League will investigate all cases of alleged bullying and take appropriate action to ensure the protection of young people.

All clubs are encouraged to appoint a Child Protection Officer who has attended the Football Association Child Protection Course and complete a Criminal Records Bureau Check. Anyone having any concerns about the welfare of a young person should contact the appropriate authority/officer without delay.

### **The Football Association – Policy on Child Protection**

The Football Association will consider, having taken advice, whether anyone who has a previous criminal conviction or caution for offences related to the abuse of young people, violence or any sexual offences should be excluded from working with young people. This position is reinforced by UK legislation and guidance.

Comprehensive guidance on the implementation of the Child Protection policy is contained in a booklet, the FA Child Protection Procedures Handbook, available from the FA Child Protection Department, Wembley Stadium, Wembley, London HA9 0WS. Tel: 020 7745 4909. Email: [goal@thefa.com](mailto:goal@thefa.com), Website: [www.thefa.com/goal](http://www.thefa.com/goal)

*The Peterborough & District Football League will support the Football Association by whatever means necessary to ensure that young people who participate in football are properly protected.*

### **The Peterborough & District Football League Child Protection Officer**

Under FA Regulations a player who has not yet reached the age of 18 years is regarded as a child. In these circumstances many Peterborough & District Football League clubs will have children playing for them in the company of adults.

In order to respond to the increasing importance attached to Child Protection by the Football Association, Karl Fawcett has been appointed Child Protection Officer for the Peterborough & District Football League.

His role will be to:

- Encourage good practice.
- Encourage each club to have a Child Protection Officer who has attended the 3 hours FA Child Protection Workshop and obtained CRB clearance.
- Deal with any Child Protection issues that may arise in the League.
- Provide general advice and assistance as required.

To contact K Fawcett please call Peterborough & District Football League, Candy Street, Peterborough PE2 9RETel: 01733 566605 Email: [office@pdfl.org](mailto:office@pdfl.org)

### **The Child Protection Helpline**

The Football Association/NSPCC Child Protection helpline, which is open 24 hours a day and run on an entirely confidential basis, can be contacted on 0808 800 5000 (text phone 0800 056 0566 for deaf users). Any concerns should be directed to your County FA Child Protection Officer, the Peterborough & District Football League Child Protection Officer, Karl Fawcett, or to your own Club Child Protection Officer.

### **Goal**

**Goal** is the name of the Football Associations Child Protection campaign. The objective is to have someone at every club in the country aware of child protection and best practice, whether it's a Premiership Academy or a Sunday morning park side. **Goal** is about doing things the right way, doing things properly. Its about allowing young people to enjoy the game without abuse of any kind. That means bullying, physical, emotional or sexual abuse and neglect.

For details of GOAL see the FA website ([www.thefa.com](http://www.thefa.com))