



NC United FC Safeguarding Children Policy

Document Creation Date: 18/12/2025– V1.0

1. Policy Statement

NC United Football Club is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people involved in football. The Club recognises its responsibility to ensure that football is played in a safe, positive, and inclusive environment where children are protected from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

The Club believes that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, or background, have the right to enjoy football in a safe environment
- Everyone involved in football has a role to play in safeguarding children

This policy applies to all players under the age of 18 and to all adults involved with NC United FC.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All coaches, volunteers, and team officials
- Club committee members
- Parents and carers
- Any individual acting on behalf of NC United FC

It applies during:

- Training sessions
- Matches
- Tournaments
- Club-organised events
- Travel and online/digital environments linked to the Club

3. Club Welfare Officers

NC United FC has appointed Club Welfare Officers in line with FA requirements.

- Melissa Giles – Welfare Officer (U11 and below)
- Matthew Armstrong – Welfare Officer (U12 and above)

The Welfare Officers are responsible for:

- Promoting best safeguarding practice within the Club





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- Acting as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns
- Referring concerns to the County FA Welfare Officer or statutory agencies where appropriate

4. Responsibilities

Club Responsibilities

NC United FC will:

- Adopt and implement FA safeguarding policies and procedures
- Appoint trained and DBS-checked Welfare Officers
- Ensure all coaches and volunteers complete FA safeguarding training as required
- Promote a culture where children feel safe, listened to, and valued
- Respond appropriately and promptly to safeguarding concerns

Coaches and Volunteers

All coaches and volunteers:

- Have a duty of care to safeguard children
- Must follow FA Codes of Conduct and Club policies
- Must report any safeguarding concerns immediately
- Must not promise confidentiality to a child
- Must act in good faith and in the best interests of the child at all times

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Support the Club's safeguarding policies
- Raise any concerns promptly with the Welfare Officers
- Work in partnership with the Club to safeguard children

5. Recognising Abuse

Safeguarding concerns may relate to:

- Physical abuse





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- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Bullying (including online or cyberbullying)

Concerns may arise from:

- A direct disclosure
- Observed behaviour or changes in behaviour
- Information received from another person

6. Reporting Concerns and The FA Welfare Plan

NC United FC follows The FA Welfare Plan and Safeguarding Children Procedures. Any safeguarding concern must be reported without delay and in line with FA guidance.

Concerns may relate to:

- A child at risk of harm
- Poor practice
- A safeguarding concern about an adult or another child

How to Report a Concern

Concerns should be raised using one of the following routes:

Club Welfare Officers

- Melissa Giles – Welfare Officer (U11 and below)
- Matthew Armstrong – Welfare Officer (U12 and above)

Email: welfare@ncutdfc.co.uk

Online: Submit a Witness Statement via the Welfare tab at

<https://ncutdfc.co.uk/>

The Welfare Officer will:

- Listen carefully and take all concerns seriously
- Record the concern accurately
- Decide on the appropriate next steps
- Refer the matter to the County FA Welfare Officer or statutory agencies where required

FA Welfare Plan – Escalation





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If the concern involves:

- Serious harm or immediate risk
- A criminal offence
- A safeguarding concern about a Club Welfare Officer

The concern must be reported directly to the appropriate external authority:

- Emergency services: 999 (if a child is in immediate danger)
- Local authority children's services
- The FA Safeguarding Team (details below)

NC United FC will always act in the best interests of the child and will not attempt to investigate safeguarding concerns internally.

7. Confidentiality

All safeguarding concerns will be handled sensitively and confidentially. Information will only be shared with those who need to know in order to protect the child.

8. Online Safety and Digital Communication

NC United FC recognises that safeguarding extends to online environments. The Club operates separate policies covering:

- Social media use
- Photography and video recording
- Digital communication

These policies must be followed at all times by coaches, volunteers, and officials.

9. Breaches of Policy

Failure to comply with this Safeguarding Children Policy may result in:

- Disciplinary action by the Club
- Referral to the County FA
- Further action in line with FA regulations

10. Key Safeguarding Contacts

NC United FC Welfare Contacts





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- Club Welfare Officer (U11 and below): Melissa Giles
- Club Welfare Officer (U12 and above): Matthew Armstrong
- Email: welfare@ncutdfc@gmail.com
- Online reporting: <https://ncutdfc.co.uk/> (Welfare tab)

County FA Welfare Officer

Concerns may also be reported directly to the Shropshire County FA Welfare Officer.

Email: welfare@shropshirefa.com
 Telephone: via Shropshire FA main office

The FA Safeguarding Team

For concerns that cannot be managed at club or County FA level:

Email: safeguarding@thefa.com
 Telephone: 0800 169 1863

NSPCC

- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Email: help@nspcc.org.uk
- Website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Children's Social Care

Contact your local authority children's services if you believe a child is at risk of harm.

NC United FC Commitment

NC United FC is committed to creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive football environment where children can develop, enjoy the game, and reach their potential free from harm.

Updated: 18/12/2025

Review Date: 18/12/2026

Approved by: NC United Committee

