



Watford Stags Football Club Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

Watford Stags Football Club is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all its members, particularly children and vulnerable adults. This safeguarding policy outlines the Club's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. All Club members, including players, coaches, volunteers, and supporters, are expected to adhere to this policy.

We acknowledge our responsibility 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. We subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children – Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2. Policy Statement

- The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is of paramount importance.
- All children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all members have a role to play in promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
- 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, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief
 - 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.
- We acknowledge that 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. Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

3. Definitions

- **Child:** Any person under the age of 18.
- **Vulnerable Adult:** Any person aged 18 or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age, or illness, and who is, or may be, unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.



3. Safeguarding principles

- 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 Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook) 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.

4. Safeguarding Officer

The Club Welfare Officer is responsible for safeguarding and child protection. This person is the main point of contact for any safeguarding concerns and will ensure that the Club's safeguarding policies and procedures are followed.

Club Welfare Officer Contact Information: Name: Eranzie Edwards

Phone: 07879435643

Email: ez_a_edwards@hotmail.com

5. Recruitment and Training

- We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:
 - specify what the role is and what tasks it involves
 - request identification documents
 - as a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them
 - ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone
- All coaches, volunteers, and anyone in a position of trust will undergo a rigorous recruitment process, including DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks.
- All relevant members will receive appropriate safeguarding training to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the procedures to follow if they have any concerns about a child or vulnerable adult's welfare.

6. Code of Conduct

All members are expected to adhere to the following code of conduct:

- Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of every person.
- Act with integrity and in accordance with the Club's values and policies.
- Never engage in any form of abusive behavior, including physical, emotional, sexual, or neglectful acts.
- Report any concerns about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult to the Club Welfare Officer immediately.



7. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

- Any member who has concerns about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult should report their concerns to the Club Welfare Officer as soon as possible.
- The Club Welfare Officer will take appropriate action, which may include reporting the concerns to the relevant authorities.
- All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Confidentiality will be maintained at all times, and information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis.

8. Whistleblowing

- The Club encourages an open and supportive culture where members feel able to report concerns without fear of retribution.
- Any member who raises a safeguarding concern in good faith will be supported and protected from any form of victimization or harassment.

9. Monitoring and Review

- This safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if there are changes in legislation or best practice guidelines.
- The Club Welfare Officer will ensure that the policy is adhered to and that safeguarding practices are regularly monitored and evaluated.

10. Photographing and filming

- Parents, children and football clubs generally look forward to celebrating and or publicising footballing successes by photographing children at matches and events. Documenting a child's involvement and progress through the season both by film and photos is widely accepted as contributing to the enjoyment of the game.
- It's also recognised some coaches find it helpful to use photographs or film as a coaching tool to support a player's development.
- The FA recognises the use of photos and film on websites, social media, posters, within the press or other publications, can pose direct and indirect risks to children if they are not managed appropriately. However, the taking of appropriate images of children is supported by The FA.
- Everyone wishing to film or take photos in football has a responsibility to familiarise themselves with the clubs policy on photographing and filming especially as it pertains to compromising the child's welfare. If a parent is in any doubt they should seek guidance from the coach or discuss the boundaries with the Watford Stags Child Welfare Officer.

11. Policy Adoption

This Safeguarding Policy was adopted by Watford Stags FC on 21/07/2013, updated 05/07/2024.

Signed:



Chairperson: _____ Karim Eljanfali _____

Club Welfare Officer: ___ Eranzie Edwards _____

Secretary: _____ Eranzie Edwards _____

Appendix: Contact Information for Reporting Concerns

Local Authority Children's Social Care: Phone: [Local Authority Phone Number] Email: [Local Authority Email Address]

NSPCC Helpline: Phone: 0808 800 5000 Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Local Police: Phone: [01923] (For emergencies, dial 999)

Watford Stags Football Club Health and Safety Policy

1. Introduction

Watford Stags Football Club is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all its members, including players, coaches, volunteers, and spectators. This health and safety policy outlines the Club's approach to managing and minimizing risks associated with football activities and promoting a safe environment for all participants.

2. Policy Statement

- The Club is committed to providing a safe environment for all its members.
- The Club will take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of its members.
- Health and safety are the responsibility of every Club member, and everyone has a role to play in promoting safe practices.

3. Responsibilities

- **Executive Committee:** Ensure that health and safety policies and procedures are in place and adhered to.
- **Club Welfare Officer:** Oversee the implementation of health and safety policies and ensure compliance.
- **Coaches and Volunteers:** Promote safe practices, conduct regular safety checks, and report any hazards or incidents.
- **Members and Spectators:** Follow health and safety guidelines and report any concerns to Club officials.

4. Health and Safety Procedures

4.1 Risk Assessment

- The Club will conduct regular risk assessments to identify potential hazards and take appropriate measures to mitigate risks.



- Risk assessments will be reviewed annually or whenever there are significant changes to activities or facilities.

4.2 Training

- All coaches and volunteers will receive health and safety training relevant to their roles.
- First aid training will be provided to designated members.

4.3 First Aid

- The Club will maintain a fully stocked first aid kit at all training sessions and matches.
- A qualified first aider will be present at all Club activities.

4.4 Facilities and Equipment

- The Club will ensure that all facilities and equipment are safe and well-maintained.
- Regular inspections will be conducted to identify and address any issues.

4.5 Incident Reporting

- All accidents and incidents must be reported to the Club Welfare Officer and recorded in the Club's incident log.
- The Club will investigate incidents and take appropriate action to prevent recurrence.

5. Emergency Procedures

- In case of an emergency, the safety of participants is the first priority.
- Emergency contact numbers for local medical services and the nearest hospital will be readily available.
- All members should be familiar with the location of first aid equipment and emergency exits.

6. Monitoring and Review

- The Executive Committee will monitor compliance with the health and safety policy.
- The policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are changes in legislation or best practice guidelines.

7. Policy Adoption

This Health and Safety Policy was adopted by Watford Stags Football Club on [Date].

Signed: Eranzie Edwards

Chairperson: __Karim Eljanfali_____

Club Welfare Officer: __Eranzie Edwards_____

Secretary: __Eranzie Edwards_____

Appendix: Risk Assessment for Watford Stags Football Club Activities



Activity: Football Training Sessions and Matches

Location: [Specify location, e.g., Home Ground, Watford Park]

Hazard	Risk Level (Low/Medium/High)	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Person
Slips, trips, falls	Medium	Regularly inspect and maintain playing surfaces; remove debris; ensure proper footwear	Coaches and Volunteers
Collision/Injury	High	Enforce rules; provide adequate supervision; ensure proper warm-up and cool-down	Coaches
Weather conditions	Medium	Monitor weather forecasts; provide appropriate clothing and hydration	Coaches
Equipment safety	Low	Regularly inspect and maintain equipment; replace damaged items	Coaches and Volunteers
Medical emergencies	Medium	Have a qualified first aider present; keep a fully stocked first aid kit	Club Welfare Officer
Unauthorized access	Low	Ensure only authorized personnel enter the playing area; supervise entry points	Volunteers
Fire	Low	Ensure clear access to emergency exits; keep fire-fighting equipment accessible	Facility Manager

Emergency Contact Information:

Local Medical Services: Phone: [Local Medical Services Phone Number]

Nearest Hospital: Phone: [Nearest Hospital Phone Number] Address: [Nearest Hospital Address]

Local Police: Phone: [Local Police Non-Emergency Number] (For emergencies, dial 999)