

# RAINFORD RANGERS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Rainford Rangers Junior Football Club acknowledges its 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 of its members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. We subscribe to The Football Association's Child Protection and Best Practice Policy and Procedures, Safeguarding Children and Young People in football (revised edition 2006) and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

The key principles of The FA Child Protection 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.

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.

Rainford Rangers Junior Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club. Rainford Rangers Junior Football 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 Regulations (see [Appendix 1](#)) 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, coach, club official or medical staff.

We endorse and adopt The FA's Child Protection and Best Practice Guidelines for recruiting volunteers and will:

- 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
- Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines.

All current Football Club members with direct access to 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 Football Club 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 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 or young people and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

Rainford Rangers Junior Football Club supports The FA's Whistle-blowing Policy.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can whistle-blow by contacting The FA Child Protection Team on 0207 745 4771 or by writing to The FA Case Manager, The Football Association, 25 Soho Square, London W1D 4FA or by going direct to the Police, Social Services, or the NSPCC. Rainford Rangers Junior Football Club encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.

Rainford Rangers Junior Football Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with The FA's role profile and completion of the Child Protection and Best Practice Workshop. The post holder will be involved with designated persons training provided by The FA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members and parents/carers regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. They liaise directly with the County FA Child Protection Officer (CFA CPO) and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. 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 member of the committee or alternatively in cases of serious bullying contact the CFA CPO.

Codes of conduct for coaches, players, officials and parents/carers, officials and coaches have been implemented by Rainford Rangers Junior Football Club. In order to validate these codes of conduct the club has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by leagues or the County FA in more serious circumstances. All prospective members will be informed of these codes.

Further advice on Child Protection matters can be obtained from:

The County Football Association's Child Protection Officer, whose details can be found in the County Handbook

The FA/NSPCC Child Protection 24-Hour Helpline 0808 800 5000

[www.TheFA.com/Goal](http://www.TheFA.com/Goal)

The FA Child Protection Team 0207 745 4895.

## **Appendix 1 - The Football Association Regulations**

### **CHILD PROTECTION**

Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.

(a) In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in the Schedules of the Criminal Justice and Court services Act 2000 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

(b) All persons in such positions that The Association deems relevant whose normal duties include caring for, training supervising or being in sole charge of children are required to obtain an Enhanced Disclosure via The Association's CRB process.

Upon receipt by The Association of:

- Notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
- Notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
- Any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:-

- Whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
- Whether the matters are of a serious nature;
- Whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded having regard to the need for any action to be proportionate.

The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.

Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.

Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he/she is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

The applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard, of the balance of probability. The more serious the allegation taking into account the nature of the misconduct alleged and the context of the case the greater the burden of evidence required to find the matter proved. Save that for changes pursuant to The Football Association's Child Protection Policy, where the welfare and protection of children shall be paramount and the test shall be whether more likely than not.

**For further details of The FA's Regulations, see The FA's Handbook for the current football season.**