

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Policy Statement

Blackfyne FC is committed to ensuring that all players, coaches, officials, volunteers and parents/carers are able to enjoy football in a safe and positive environment. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people, and adults at risk by protecting them from neglect, physical, sexual, or emotional harm and by promoting their welfare and well-being.

The 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 members. We subscribe to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children- Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

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.

2. Key Principles

- The welfare of the child and adult at risk is paramount.
- All participants, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- The Club acknowledges its responsibility to ensure that coaches, team managers, officials, and volunteers are carefully recruited and supported in accordance with The FA's safer recruitment guidelines.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Club has appointed a Welfare Officer who is responsible for implementing and promoting this policy, and for acting as the first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns.

Club Welfare Officer: Tim Camsell

📞 07866 305686

Durham County FA Welfare Officer: Neil Churcher

📞 0191 3872928 (Option 1) / 07396 681103

✉ Neil.Churcher@DurhamFA.com

- The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0845 210 8080

4. Procedures for Reporting Concerns

Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. fI you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns- no action is not an option.

• If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the club Welfare Officer. If the issue is one of poor practice they will either:

a. Deal with the matter themselves or

b. b. Seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer

If the concern is more serious - possible child abuse - they will, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services

If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your CFA Welfare Officer know what action you have taken

If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:

a. Contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly

b. Contact the Police or Children's Social Care

c. Call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email

help@nspcc.org.uk

In Summary

- Any concerns about the welfare of a child or adult at risk must be reported immediately to the Club Welfare Officer.
- The Welfare Officer will decide the appropriate course of action, which may involve contacting the County FA Welfare Officer or, where necessary, statutory agencies (police or social services).
- All reports will be handled in confidence and in line with The FA's safeguarding procedures.

5. Safer Recruitment

Blackfyne FC is committed to following The FA's safer recruitment policy to ensure all individuals working with children and vulnerable adults are suitable to do so. All staff and volunteers in regulated activity must hold an in-date FA DBS check and complete relevant safeguarding training.

6. Code of Conduct

All coaches, players, officials, parents/carers, and spectators are required to abide by The FA's Respect Code of Conduct and the Club's Code of Conduct. Breaches of conduct will be managed in accordance with Club and FA disciplinary procedures.

7. Whistleblowing

Blackfyne FC supports The FA's whistleblowing policy, enabling anyone with genuine concerns about a child's welfare, or the behaviour of an adult working with children, to report these concerns in confidence and without fear of victimisation.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0844 980 8200 4787 or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC. Our club encourages everyone to know about this information and utilise it if necessary.

8. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or following any safeguarding incident, changes in legislation, or updates to The FA's safeguarding guidance.

Review Date: 31 October 2025

For further information, please refer to The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy, Safeguarding Adults Policy, and the guidance available at: www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding.

Please note: The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures is available via www.TheFA.com/Footballsafe. Click on the 'downloads' under Policy and Procedures. It outlines in detail what to do fi you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams to describe this process. This is also covered within the Safeguarding Children workshop, where participants are given the opportunity to discuss how this feels and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation.