



Tel Smith Goalkeeping (TSG)

Football Coaching Safeguarding Policy:

Our Goalkeeping Coaching Safeguarding Policy is crucial for protecting the welfare and rights of young players and ensuring a safe environment for everyone involved in the sport.

Football Coaching Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

This Safeguarding Policy outlines the commitment of Tel Smith Goalkeeping to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children and vulnerable adults involved in football activities. The policy is designed to create a safe and supportive environment for players, ensuring that all coaches, staff, and volunteers uphold high standards of care and protection.

**2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Promote best practice in safeguarding within football coaching.
- Provide clear guidelines for responding to concerns about the safety or well-being of any player.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers are aware of their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding.

**3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All coaches, assistant coaches, and staff working within Tel Smith Goalkeeping.
- All volunteers who engage with players under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults.
- All football activities including training sessions, matches, events, and travel.

4. Definitions of Abuse

Abuse can take many forms, including but not limited to:

- **Physical Abuse**: Causing physical harm to a player, such as hitting, shaking, or pushing.
- **Emotional or Psychological Abuse**: Shaming, threatening, or belittling players, causing emotional harm.
- **Sexual Abuse**: Any form of sexual contact or behavior that is inappropriate, non-consensual, or exploitative.
- **Neglect**: Failure to provide adequate care, including food, shelter, and supervision, putting a player's well-being at risk.
- **Bullying**: Repeated aggressive behavior, either physical or psychological, that targets a player.

**5. Safe Recruitment and Screening

- All coaching staff, volunteers, and individuals who work with children or vulnerable adults will undergo **appropriate background checks**, including enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks where applicable.
- References will be sought from previous roles, and interviews will be conducted to assess suitability for working with young people.

**6. Code of Conduct

- Coaches and staff must always act in the best interest of the players.
- No coach or staff member should be left alone with a player unless there is an appropriate adult present to ensure safety.
- Physical contact should be appropriate and for the sole benefit of the player (e.g., demonstrating techniques, providing first aid).
- Coaches should avoid any behavior that could be misinterpreted as inappropriate or abusive.

7. Training and Awareness

- All staff, volunteers, and coaches must undergo regular safeguarding training to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities and how to respond to safeguarding concerns.
- Coaches and staff should be familiar with signs of abuse or neglect and understand how to report concerns.
- Training should cover issues such as **bullying**, **online safety**, and recognizing signs of emotional or psychological abuse.

**8. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

- All concerns or suspicions of abuse or inappropriate behavior should be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding officer (DSO) or relevant authority.
- Coaches and staff should listen to players and take any concerns seriously. They should never dismiss or downplay a player's concerns.
- If a player is at immediate risk of harm, appropriate emergency action must be taken, including notifying law enforcement or child protection services if necessary.
- A confidential record of any concern, incident, or disclosure must be made and stored securely.

**9. Safe Practice in Training and Matches

- All training sessions and matches should be planned with the players' safety and welfare in mind.
- Coaches should ensure that appropriate warm-up and cool-down routines are implemented, and that the training environment is free of hazards.
- Players should be encouraged to report any injuries or concerns during sessions or matches.

- A first-aid kit must be accessible, and at least one coach should have a valid first-aid qualification.

10. Photography and Social Media

- **Parental consent** should be obtained before taking photographs or videos of players, particularly children under the age of 18.

- Coaches and staff should be cautious when using social media and should not engage in private online communication with players.

- Photographs or videos should only be shared on appropriate platforms (e.g., official club social media), and players should not be tagged without permission from their parent/guardian.

11. Travel and Away Games

- Coaches should ensure that all travel arrangements for away games are safe and appropriate.

- Players should never be alone with a coach or adult without prior consent from their parents or guardians.

- A clear and agreed-upon travel policy must be in place, including guidelines for overnight stays if applicable.

12. Confidentiality and Data Protection

- All information about players, including safeguarding concerns, must be kept confidential and stored securely.

- Information should only be shared with individuals who have a legitimate need to know, such as relevant authorities or club officials.

13. Review and Monitoring

- This policy should be reviewed on a regular basis, at least annually, and updated in accordance with best practice, legal requirements, and changes in the sport.

- Ongoing monitoring of safeguarding practices should take place to ensure compliance with this policy and identify areas for improvement.

****Conclusion****

By adhering to this safeguarding policy, we commit to providing a safe and supportive environment for all players, ensuring that football remains an enjoyable and positive experience. All coaches and staff must be proactive in maintaining these standards to ensure the safety, well-being, and development of young players within the game.

This policy sets out clear and practical guidelines to ensure that players, coaches, and staff are aware of safeguarding issues and their responsibilities to create a safe, protective environment for all involved in the sport.

REPORTING A CONCERN

Useful contacts:

Essex County FA

You can contact Essex County FA on:

- [01245 393098](tel:01245393098)
- [01245 393093](tel:01245393093)
- Safeguarding@EssexFA.com

Childline

Childline can be contacted on:

- [0800 1111](tel:08001111)
- Via www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC

The NSPCC can be contacted on safeguarding issues on:

- [0808 800 500](tel:0808800500)
- help@NSPCC.org.uk

Essex Safeguarding Children Board

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board can be contacted via:

- www.escb.co.uk

The FA

The FA can be contacted on:

- Safeguarding@TheFA.com