



Torquespeed Football Club Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Torquespeed 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 members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. Torquespeed Football Club subscribes to 'The Football Association's ("The FA") Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures' and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.
2. 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, language, sexual orientation, faith or belief
 - All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken very seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
 - Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential

Torquespeed Football Club acknowledges 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. Torquespeed Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in the club.

3. Torquespeed 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 and 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 applies to volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, football coaches, club officials and medical staff.
4. Torquespeed Football Club endorses and adopts 'The FA's Responsible Recruitment' guidelines for recruiting volunteers and will:
 - Develop a role profile
 - Request identification documents
 - As a minimum meet with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
 - Request and follow up 2 references before appointing
 - Require an FA accepted 'Disclosure and Barring' ("DBS") check as part of responsible recruitment practice



If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has made an approach to become part of Torquespeed Football Club, guidance will be sought from The FA. It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via The FA DBS process and that all suitability 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 and young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children and young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and young people and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

5. Torquespeed Football Club supports The FA's 'Whistle Blowing Policy'. Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football can 'whistle blow' by contacting 'The FA Safeguarding Team' on **0800 169 1863**, by writing to The FA Case Manager at the Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London, SW1P 9EQ, by e-mailing 'safeguarding@thefa.com' or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC. Torquespeed Football Club encourages everyone to know about The FA's 'Whistle Blowing Policy' and to utilise it if necessary.
6. Torquespeed Football Club has an appointed 'Club Welfare Officer' in line with The FA's role profile and has complied with required completion of the 'Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop'. The post holder is involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or County FA. The Club Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Club Welfare Officer will liaise directly with The County FA (CFA) Welfare Officer and is familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members and officials.
7. Torquespeed Football Club acknowledges and endorses The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not accepted at the club. If bullying does occur, all children, young people, parents and carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the Club Welfare Officer and in cases of serious bullying the Club Welfare Officer may contact the CFA Welfare Officer.



8. 'Codes of Conduct' for Players, Parents, Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by Torquespeed Football Club. The club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more severe circumstances.
9. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** If you are worried about a child or young person it is important that you report your concerns – **no action is not an option.**
- If you are worried about a child or young person, you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer
 - If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either:
 - Handle the matter themselves as appropriate
 - Seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer
 - If the concern is more serious (suspected child abuse), the Club Welfare Officer will, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care
 - If the child or young person requires immediate medical treatment the individual(s) handling the situation should take them to hospital or call an ambulance notifying that it is a child protection concern. They must also advise the Club Welfare Officer of the action they have taken. The Club Welfare Officer will in turn inform the CFA Welfare Officer
 - If at any time the Club Welfare Officer cannot be contacted or a matter is of a serious nature the following protocols must be adopted:
 - Contact the CFA Welfare Officer directly
 - Contact The FA Safeguarding Team on **0800 169 1863** or 'safeguarding@thefa.com'
 - Contact the Police or Children's Social Care
 - Call the NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on **0800 800 5000**, text **88858** or email 'help@nspcc.org.uk'

Note: The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding. Click on '11. The complete downloads directory' for further guidance regarding best practice. The guidance outlines in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child or young person and includes flow diagrams to illustrate the process. The process is also covered within the Safeguarding Childrens Workshop and provides specific guidance as to how individuals can prepare themselves to handle Child Welfare incidents.



10. Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

- Kayleigh Smith
Club Welfare Officer
T: 07908 982815
E: torquespeedcwo@gmail.com

- Shane Waughman
Deputy Club Welfare Officer
T: 07931 623237
E: s.waughman@live.co.uk

- Helen Hever
Essex County Football Association Welfare Officer
T: 01245 393098
E: helen.hever@essexfa.com

- www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding

- The FA Safeguarding Children enquiry line **0845 210 8080**

- Emailing 'safeguarding@thefa.com'