



Lea Sports PSG Football Club

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

- Lea Sports PSG Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person 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 football club activity. We subscribe to the Football Association's child protection and best practice policy and procedures 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 always must 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 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 or carers is essential.

- Lea Sports PSG 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. We recognise that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our Club..

- Lea Sports PSG 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's child protection regulation applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those who are a volunteer, match official, helper on Club tours, football coach, Club official or medical staff.

- We endorse and accept the FA's Child Protection and Best Practice Guidelines for Recruiting Volunteers and will:
 - Develop a role profile;
 - Request identification documents;
 - At a minimum, meet and talk with the applicant(s) and where possible conduct interviews before appointing;
 - Request and follow up two references before appointing;
 - Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines.

- All current Lea Sports PSG 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 Lea Sports PSG 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 Enhanced CRB Disclosure and that all decisions will be made in the 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 and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.
- Lea Sports PSG 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 Child Protection Officer on 0207 745 4771, by writing to the FA Case Manager at the Football Association, 25 Soho Square, London, W1D 4FA, or by going direct to the police, social services or the NSPCC.
- Lea Sports PSG Football Club has appointed a Child Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with the FA's role profile and required completion of the child protection and best practice workshop. The post holder will be involved with designated person's training provided by the FA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all Club members and parents or guardians regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. They will liaise directly with the County FA Child Protection Officer (CPO) and be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing 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 in our Club. If bullying should occur, all players, parents or guardians should be able to report incidents and know that they will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO, a member of the Executive Committee or, in cases of serious bullying, the County FA CPO.
- Codes of Conduct for players, parents, spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by Lea Sports PSG 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.