**COLLIERS WOOD LITTLE LEAGUE SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

1. CWLLF acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who participates in our little league football either as a player or volunteer. We are 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 little league club football activity.

We subscribe to The Football Association’s (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in that document.

1. The key principles of The FA Safeguarding Children Policy are as follows:
* 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 including gender identity, disability, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.
* 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 little league football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. **CWLLF recognises this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.**
1. CWLLF 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 safeguarding regulations applies to everyone in our little league whether you are a coach, referee, on the refreshment stall.
2. CWLLF endorse and accept The FA’s Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting our volunteers. We will:
* Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves
* Request identification documents
* Committee members as a minimum may wish to meet and chat to new volunteers
* We may ask for references
* Where eligible require a fully enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service). *Please see our DBS policy guidelines*
* If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of CWLLF guidance will be sort from The FA or Merton’s MASH team (multi-agency safeguarding hub). It is noted and accepted that CWLLF will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the DBS process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.
* It is accepted that CWLLF (following best practice guidelines from 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 and emotional harm to children and to minimise the risk of grooming in football.
1. CWLLF supports The FA’s Whistle Blowing Policy.

Any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust with football can ‘whistle blow’ by contacting:

The FA Safeguarding Team 0800 169 1863

Or in writing to:

The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ

Or by emailing:

Safeguarding@TheFA.com

Or alternatively by going directly to the police, Children’s Social Care or the NSPCC.

1. CWLLF have appointed a Club Welfare Officer in line with The FA’s role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post-holder will be involved in Welfare Officer training provided by The FA or county FA (Surrey FA). Our current Welfare Officers are Rebecca Shingleton and Richard Starke.

The Welfare Officer will be the first point of contact for all little league members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Welfare Officer will liaise directly with relevant agencies such as Surrey FA, police and local authority safeguarding services.

They will also play a proactive role, alongside committee members, in increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice and abuse amongst little league members/spectators.

1. CWLLF acknowledge and endorse The FA’s identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable to our little league. 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 Club Welfare Officer OR any committee members.
2. RESPECT codes of conduct for Players, Parents/Spectators, Officials and Coaches. In order to validate these RESPECT codes of conduct CWLLF has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct. CWLLF committee acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions.
3. Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person. **Safeguarding** **is everyone’s responsibility,** if you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns no matter how trifling it may be seem – **no action is not an option.**
4. If you are worried about a child, then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officers.
5. If the issue is one of poor practice, the Club Welfare Officer will either
* Deal with the matter themselves

Or

* Seek advice from an appropriate agency/authority
1. If the concern is more serious- possible child abuse, the Police or Children’s Social Care will be the first point of contact.
2. If the child requires immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this child is a child protection concern. Let your Welfare Officer know the action you have taken, they in turn will inform appropriate agencies/authorities.
3. If at any time, you are not able to contact your Welfare Officer or the matter is serious then contact:
* The FA Safeguarding Team 0800 169 1863 safeguarding@theFA.com
* The Police
* Children’s Social Care Merton 020 8545 4226 mash@merton.gov.uk
* NSPCC Helpline for 24 hr advice 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk
* If you are a child please contact Childline 0800 1111 childline.org.uk

LET’S MAKE FOOTBALL SAFE NOT SORRY