



Ashington Town FC – Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

1. Purpose

To ensure all children and young people involved in Ashington Town FC enjoy football in a safe, positive, and inclusive environment, and to protect them from harm.

This includes safeguarding children from risks associated with personal or private financial sponsorship by coaches, volunteers, or other individuals.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All players under 18
- All coaches, volunteers, and staff
- Parents, guardians, and spectators
- Anyone participating in Club activities
- All sponsors and donors associated with the Club

3. Principles

The welfare of the child is paramount.

All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious 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.

Adults in football must follow The FA Safeguarding Code of Conduct.

Financial sponsorships must be transparent, approved by the Club Committee, and comply with the Player Sponsorship Policy to prevent conflicts of interest or undue influence.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Welfare Officer:

- Appointed by the Committee, oversees safeguarding in the Club.

- Receives and manages concerns or reports of abuse.

- Liaises with external authorities, including FA Safeguarding Team and local child protection agencies.

- Monitors compliance with Player Sponsorship Policy as it relates to safeguarding.

Committee:

- Ensures policy is implemented, monitored, and reviewed annually.

- Provides training and resources to staff and volunteers.

- Approves all sponsorships or financial assistance for players.

Coaches & Volunteers:

Must comply with safeguarding procedures.
Maintain professional boundaries.
Report concerns immediately to Welfare Officer.
Must not personally sponsor or financially support individual players, to avoid conflicts of interest or safeguarding risks.

Parents & Guardians:

Support safe practices and report concerns.
Ensure their children understand Club codes of conduct.
Direct any sponsorship offers through the Club, not to individual coaches or staff.

5. Procedures

All coaches/managers must hold valid FA DBS certificates and safeguarding training.
Any safeguarding concern must be reported immediately to the Welfare Officer.
Records of concerns, investigations, and outcomes must be kept securely and confidentially.
Allegations involving adults must follow FA and local authority reporting procedures.
Allegations involving children must follow The FA Safeguarding Children Policy and Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.
Staff and volunteers must avoid one-to-one situations with children where possible; if unavoidable, maintain transparency and safety (e.g., visible environment, parental consent).
All financial sponsorships must be processed through the Club Treasurer and Welfare Officer, in accordance with the Player Sponsorship Policy. Coaches or staff must not engage in private financial arrangements with players.

6. Education & Training

All volunteers and staff to complete FA safeguarding courses and refresher training every three years.
Parents informed of safeguarding measures and reporting procedures at registration and via Club communications.
Coaches and volunteers receive guidance on managing financial boundaries and sponsorship risks.

7. Monitoring & Review

The Welfare Officer and Committee will review safeguarding compliance annually.
Updates made to reflect FA policy changes or lessons learned from incidents.
Sponsorship-related issues and adherence to the Player Sponsorship Policy are included in annual safeguarding audits.

8. Record Keeping

Secure record of all incidents, concerns, and actions taken.
Records retained for a minimum of six years.
Records of player sponsorship and financial assistance maintained securely by the Club Treasurer and Welfare Officer, in line with data protection requirements.

9. Sign-off

This policy has been approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AM' followed by a wavy line.

Adam Millar
Club Secretary
On behalf of
Ashington Town FC Committee

14th October 2025