



TANKERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

www.tankertonfc.co.uk

Registered Charity no. 1154570

Tankerton Football Club (TFC) Safeguarding Children Policy

1. TFC 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. 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.

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, 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 organization's, children and young people and their parents' carers is essential.
2. We acknowledge 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.

TFC recognizes that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

Policy	Version	Effective Date	Next Review	Author	Page
Safeguarding Children	3.0	16.10.23	1.11.24	VO	1/6



TANKERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

www.tankertonfc.co.uk

Registered Charity no. 1154570

3. TFC 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 Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

4. We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers and we will:
 - specify what the role is and what tasks it involves.
 - request identification documents.
 - as a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s)
 - and where possible interview people before appointing them.
 - and seek to attain 2 references.
 - where eligible require an FA accepted Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in line with current FA policy and regulations.

All current TFC members working in eligible roles, with children and young people - such as managers and coaches - are required to hold an in-date FA accepted Enhanced DBS check as part of responsible recruitment practice.

The FA's policy on DBS is subject to change. DBS information and guidance can be found at

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks>

Policy	Version	Effective Date	Next Review	Author	Page
Safeguarding Children	3.0	16.10.23	1.11.24	VO	2/6



TANKERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

www.tankertonfc.co.uk

Registered Charity no. 1154570

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/criminal-record-checks>

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/introduction-to-safeguarding-children>

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of TFC 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 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 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.

5. TFC 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 on 0800 169 1863, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing Safeguarding@TheFA.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC.

TFC encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy and to utilise it if necessary.

Policy	Version	Effective Date	Next Review	Author	Page
Safeguarding Children	3.0	16.10.23	1.11.24	VO	3/6



TANKERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

www.tankertonfc.co.uk

Registered Charity no. 1154570

6. TFC has 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 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 will be 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.
7. We acknowledge and endorse The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. 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 in cases of serious bullying the CFA Welfare Officer may be contacted.
8. Respect codes of conduct for Players, Parents/ Spectators, Officials and Coaches have been implemented by TFC. In order to validate these Respect codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.
9. 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 action is not an option.

Policy	Version	Effective Date	Next Review	Author	Page
Safeguarding Children	3.0	16.10.23	1.11.24	VO	4/6



TANKERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

www.tankertonfc.co.uk

Registered Charity no. 1154570

- i. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer
- ii. If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either:
 - deal with the matter themselves or
 - seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer
- iii. If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, immediately contact the Police or Children’s Social Care and then the Welfare Officer.
- iv. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer.
- v. If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer, or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
 - contact your 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 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

NB – The FA’s Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via –

Policy	Version	Effective Date	Next Review	Author	Page
Safeguarding Children	3.0	16.10.23	1.11.24	VO	5/6



TANKERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

www.tankertonfc.co.uk

Registered Charity no. 1154570

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/introduction-to-safeguarding-children>

The FAs campaign Let's make football safe, not sorry can be found on this site

“As the governing body of football in this country, The FA wants to do everything it can to create a sustainable safe and enjoyable framework around the game we all love.

So, anyone who has a concern about the welfare of a child or the behaviour of an adult towards a child or young person under 18 years of age in football is required to refer it to The FA Safeguarding team. The team is staffed by professionals who are experienced in dealing with child welfare.

Referring a concern can be done via your club, league or County FA – all will have a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO), trained by The FA. Alternatively, you can email us directly via safeguarding@thefa.com.

If the matter is urgent and you cannot contact your club or County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer, you can call The FA/NSPCC 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000 – or if it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk, then call the Police or Children’s Social Care in your area.

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. No action is not an option.

To read a more detailed guide to The FA’s Safeguarding processes and decision-Making:

Policy	Version	Effective Date	Next Review	Author	Page
Safeguarding Children	3.0	16.10.23	1.11.24	VO	6/6



TANKERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

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<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/introduction-to-safeguarding-children>

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

TFC Welfare Officer

Name: Phil Barton

T: 0777 349 5361

E: p.j.barton@talk21.com

Kent County Football Association's Welfare Officer

Name: Lucy Kidd

T: 01622 792 140

- www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding
- Emailing – Safeguarding@TheFA.com
- The FA/NSPCC 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000

This Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Equality, Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities Statement

TFC, in all policies and procedures, will promote equality of opportunity for all players and volunteers from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds and ensure freedom from discrimination on the basis of membership of any group, including gender, sexual orientation, family circumstances, ethnic or national origin, disability, religious or political beliefs.

TFC aims:

Policy	Version	Effective Date	Next Review	Author	Page
Safeguarding Children	3.0	16.10.23	1.11.24	VO	7/6



TANKERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

www.tankertonfc.co.uk

Registered Charity no. 1154570

- To provide equal opportunities for all
- To foster good relations and create effective partnerships with the local community.
- To provide an environment free from fear and discrimination, where diversity respect and dignity are valued.
- All aspects of safeguarding will be embedded into the life of the club and are to be adhered to and be the responsibility of all.

Policy Version Control. Summary of Changes:

Policy	Version	Reason for Change	Effective Date	Next Review	Author
Risk	3.0	Policy Rewrite.	16.10.23	1.11.24	VO

Policy	Version	Effective Date	Next Review	Author	Page
Safeguarding Children	3.0	16.10.23	1.11.24	VO	8/6