

***CITY OF SALFORD SOCCER
LEAGUE***

***Safeguarding of Children
and Young People Policy
& Procedures
June 2008.***

CONTEXT

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

The Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

Be healthy
Stay safe
Enjoy and achieve
Make a positive contribution
Achieve economic well-being

What 'safeguarding' means

The government guidance on ['Working Together to Safeguard Children – 2006'](#) defines safeguarding children and promoting their welfare as:

Protecting children from maltreatment

Preventing impairment of children's health or development

Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

Enabling **all** children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully

- **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** – this is protecting children from abuse and neglect **and** helping children and young people get the most from life.
- **Child protection** – everything that is done to protect a child or young person from significant harm.
- **Significant harm** – where a child or young person is being badly treated or where they have been stopped from growing and developing well. This can happen in a family as well as in an institution (for example, school, children's home).
- **Children in need** – children and young people who need help in order to be well and healthy. This includes disabled children.

Every one who works with children and young people, including those who help them to enjoy their chosen sport have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare.

This is an important responsibility and the officials of The City of Salford Soccer League take these responsibilities seriously. These duties are discharged through a league standard informed by Charter Standard requirements of having trained and supported welfare officers in each affiliated club, each club having child safeguarding policies and procedures that relate to officials, players volunteers and players' parents or carers.

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PROCEDURES

Over 1000 children and young people enjoy playing football within the City of Salford Soccer League (COSSL).

Within the league there are approximately 1000 officials, managers, coaches and volunteers helping children and young people to enjoy their chosen sport.

The League officials recognise the league's duty of care towards those under 18 years old who enjoy playing football under the umbrella the (COSSL). We acknowledge a duty of care to Safeguard young players promote their welfare and protect them from significant harm.

The league will discharge these responsibilities by ensuring that all clubs affiliated to the league will ensure that every adult who has a specific role with any team, or other function in a club has an awareness of his/her responsibility to:

- Respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children and young people who play football under the umbrella of the COSSL.
- Promote the well being of **all** children and young people who play football under the umbrella of the COSSL
- Develop, promote and review ways of protecting young players from discrimination, abuse, exploitation, or treatment which degrades them.

These responsibilities will be met by:

- The production of Safeguarding of Children and Young People procedures that are utilised by all clubs registered with the league. These procedures are informed by FA guidance and best practice, and reflect the requirements outlined for Charter Standard Leagues.
- The production of a policy and allied procedures for the recruitment, selection and support of all managers, coaches and volunteers within our club.
- The development of a league culture which encourages clubs to develop an individual club culture and philosophy which promotes respect for others regardless of their age, gender, social and cultural backgrounds, racial origin, religious beliefs, language, sexual identity or disability.

- The provision of a “Good Practice Guide in Caring for Children & Young People” for all clubs registered with the league.
- Ensuring that all registered clubs access FA approved Safeguarding of Children and Young People awareness training for all managers, coaches, volunteers and parents who are involved with children and young people.

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PROCEDURES

PRINCIPLES

All action taken under The City of Salford Soccer League’s Safeguarding of Children and Young People Procedures will be informed by the multi-agency Safeguarding of Children and Young People procedures developed by Children’s Safeguarding Boards which in turn are informed by government guidance.

All action will be informed by a principle that the welfare of a child or a young person is of the paramount importance.

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 identity.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse, especially those made against managers, coaches and volunteers within the clubs will be taken seriously.

The COSSL recognises and accepts a responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare of children. All clubs registered with the league are committed to cooperating with the COSSL and statutory agencies to safeguard, protect and promote children and young people who play football under the umbrella of the COSSL

The COSSL recognises that having Safeguarding of Children and Young People procedures not only helps us to safeguard the welfare of children but also safeguards our managers, coaches and volunteers.

The existence of club “Good Practice Guides in Caring for Children & Young People”, that are approved by the league also protects children and young people and adults involved with children and young person’s football.