



**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

**LEICESTERSHIRE &
RUTLAND COUNTY FA**

Chair - Professor Surinder Sharma JP DL

CEO - Joe Dunmore

Safeguarding Code of Conduct –Volunteers

Introduction

Leicestershire & Rutland County FA takes its role as a provider of football for under-18s very seriously. Their wellbeing is paramount in all decisions taken by us. All children and young people we come into contact with have the same protection regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity.

The County FA also commits to safeguarding adults at risk.

We act in accordance with legislation, statutory guidance and The FA's Policies and Procedures¹ and any associated guidance and we work collaboratively with The FA in relation to concerns about the safeguarding of children or young people or adults at risk.

To whom does this Code of Conduct apply?

This Code of Conduct applies to all volunteers, as safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Volunteer obligations

It is our expectation that all our volunteers sign this Code of Conduct and will at all times act in the best interests of children and young people under the age of 18 and in accordance with The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures. The welfare of children and young people must always be paramount.

We also expect our volunteers to act in the best interests of adults at risk in football and to follow reporting procedures.

This includes an expectation that volunteers will:

- Undertake safeguarding education or training required by the County FA;
- Read and comply with The FA's Safeguarding Policies and our safeguarding procedures for children and adults at risk;
- Obtain and maintain an FA in-date DBS Check (less than three years since the date of issue) if working in regulated activity with under-18s in youth and open-age adult football²;
- Act in an appropriate way at all times, in line with The FAs guidance for grassroots football on Physical Contact (5.6) and Acceptable Behaviours (5.7) when in contact with children and young people, and adults at risk whether face-to-face, via social media, phone or other electronic communications and in line with the County FA Social Media Policy;





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- Recognise the importance of confidentiality when working with children, young people, their families and their data;
- Recognise the importance of confidentiality when working with adults at risk and their data;
- Promptly report any concerns about safeguarding or the protection of children or young people or adults at risk in football to our Designated Safeguarding Officer or the Senior Safeguarding Lead or other nominated person or persons in their joint absence;
- Be familiar with and use the whistle-blowing policy if you suspect or believe that safeguarding concerns have not been appropriately addressed by the County FA or The FA;
- Accept that, by taking this role, this County FA may deem you to be in a 'Position of Trust' with under-18 participants that you are in contact with through your role. You should be aware of and understand the responsibility that this entails, by undertaking the relevant safeguarding education, as we deem appropriate;
- Act with integrity at all times; and
- Seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Officer or the Senior Safeguarding Lead if you are unsure about any of the above or if you are unsure how to act in any given situation.

Further information and support

Further information can be found in:

- Our Staff Handbook;
- The FA's guidance on safer working practice.
- The FA's Position of Trust Guidance (safeguarding guidance notes 1.7);

Alternatively, if you have any queries or concerns regarding the Code of Conduct or safeguarding generally, please speak to our Designated Safeguarding Officer or the Senior Safeguarding Lead in the first instance.

Please sign using the [digital signing link](#) to acknowledge you have read and understand the Code of Conduct and you agree to comply with it*. You should then keep this copy safe for your records.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct are taken seriously and could lead to you being unable to volunteer with us and/or the involvement of the statutory agencies and The FA.





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¹ Affiliated Football's Policies and Procedures can be found via: [TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-football-safeguarding-framework](https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-football-safeguarding-framework)

² See The FA website for further information about Safer Recruitment and DBS Checks: [TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks](https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks)

* Signing the Code of Conduct is a requirement of being a volunteer with us; not signing will mean you cannot volunteer with us.

