

SKIPTON WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB (SWFC)
SAFEGUARDING POLICY

ETHOS : To ensure all matches are played safely with full consideration of every participant’s age, gender and ability. The club acknowledges its responsibility to create and maintain a safe and positive environment and accepts responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or trans gender status.

AFFILIATIONS: SWFC is affiliated to both the the Walking Football Association (WFA) and the Football Association (FA) and in so doing adhere to the Rules and Regulations of the Associations and endorse and adopt the their Policies.

KEY PRINCIPLES OF SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS.

- The adult’s welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- All adults 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 organisations, and the adults, is essential.
- The club acknowledges that every adult 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.

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE: Abuse of any kind is not acceptable. Definitions of **abuse** within the following categories:

- Physical Abuse: A player is physically hurt or injured by a player.
- Emotional Abuse: Persistent criticism, discrimination.
- Bullying: Persistent or repeated hostile and intimidating behaviour.

DESIGNATED OFFICER : Mr Christopher McGrath is the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) who has the responsibility:

- For managing safeguarding requirements in line with government guidance and legislation
- Play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.
- Liaise directly with the West Riding Football Association and the Walking Football Association and will be familiar with their procedures for referring any concerns.

DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS CHECK): Skipton WFC has no requirement for Enhanced or Standard DBS checks as there is no person is eligibly required to have Basic or enhanced checks. (No employed persons).

REPORTING ABUSE: Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and if a club member is worried about an adult it is important that concerns are reported because inaction is not an option.

Any player / any vulnerable adult with concerns may report (referall) over the phone or in writing to the WFA , FA or statutory statutory agency can ‘whistle blow’ by :

- *Contacting the club designated safeguarding officer.*
- *Contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863,*
- *Writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ,*
- *E-mailing Safeguarding@TheFA.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police.*

If abuse is brought to the attention to the designated safeguarding officer Mr Christopher McGrath he will either:

- *Deal with the matter himself or*
- *Seek advice from the West Riding County FA Welfare Officer or WFA .*
- *If the concern is more serious, contact West Riding County FA Welfare Officer AND WFA first, then immediately contact the Police.*
- *If an adult needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a vulnerable adult protection concern. And contact West Riding County FA Welfare Officer and WFA .*

REVIEW: This policy will be reviewed annually by the Designated Safeguarding Officer. **Document History**

Developed	10 th June 2018	Mr C. McGrath	Reviewed	20 th June 2019	Mr C McGrath
Reviewed	01 July 2020	Mr C. McGrath	Reviewed	20 Feb 2021	Mr C. McGrath