



Staincross Rangers Junior Football Club

Safeguarding Children Policy & Procedures

1. Staincross Rangers JFC Safeguarding Children Policy

Staincross Rangers JFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person entrusted to its care. The club is committed to providing a safe and positive environment in which all children can enjoy football.

A child or young person refers to anyone under the age of 18 involved in any club football activity.

Staincross Rangers JFC subscribes to The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures and adopts the principles contained within that document.

2. Key Principles

Staincross Rangers JFC supports and adheres to the following key safeguarding principles:

- The **welfare of the child** is always the paramount consideration.
- All children have the **right to protection** from abuse, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, faith or belief.
- Allegations and suspicions of abuse will be **taken seriously**, handled sensitively, and responded to appropriately.
- Working **in partnership** with children, young people, parents/carers and other organisations is essential for effective safeguarding.

Every child should be able to enjoy football in a safe environment free from abuse and poor practice.



3. Club Responsibility

Staincross Rangers JFC accepts its responsibility to safeguard all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm, neglect or bullying.

The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations apply to everyone working or volunteering in football, including coaches, managers, match officials, committee members, helpers and medical staff.

4. Responsible Recruitment

Staincross Rangers JFC follows The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines. This includes:

- Clearly defining each role and its responsibilities.
- Requesting appropriate identification documents.
- Meeting applicants and interviewing where possible.
- Requesting and following up on at least **two references**.
- Requiring all eligible volunteers to hold an **in-date Enhanced DBS Check with a Barring List check**.

All Staincross Rangers JFC coaches, managers and assistants working with children must hold a valid FA-accepted Enhanced DBS.

If concerns arise regarding any individual currently involved with the club or applying to join in a role involving children, advice will be sought from The FA.

5. Whistleblowing

Staincross Rangers JFC supports The FA's Whistleblowing Policy.

Any adult or young person with concerns about the conduct of someone working in football can report directly to:

- The FA Safeguarding Team – 0800 169 1863
- safeguarding@TheFA.com
- Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC

All members are encouraged to understand and use the Whistleblowing Policy where necessary.



6. Club Welfare Officer

Staincross Rangers JFC has appointed a **Club Welfare Officer**, who has completed the required FA Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer training.

The Club Welfare Officer:

- Acts as the first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns within the club
- Works closely with the Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA Welfare Officer
- Promotes Respect, good practice and safeguarding awareness
- Ensures compliance with FA safeguarding procedures

7. Bullying

Staincross Rangers JFC recognises bullying as a form of abuse and does not tolerate it in any form.

All players and parents/carers should feel able to report bullying and know that incidents will be dealt with quickly. Serious incidents may be referred to the County FA Welfare Officer.

8. Respect Codes of Conduct

Staincross Rangers JFC adopts The FA's Respect Codes of Conduct for:

- Players
- Parents and Spectators
- Coaches, Managers and Team Officials
- Referees

Breaches of these codes will result in clear actions by the club, and serious or repeated misconduct may result in County FA disciplinary involvement.



9. Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Concerns about a child must always be reported.

i. If you are worried about a child:

Report concerns to the **Club Welfare Officer**.

ii. If the concern is poor practice:

The Club Welfare Officer will address the issue or seek advice from the County FA Welfare Officer.

iii. If the concern is serious (e.g., potential abuse):

Where possible, contact the County FA Welfare Officer first, then inform the Police or Children's Social Care immediately.

iv. If the child needs urgent medical attention:

- Call an ambulance or take them to hospital
- Inform medical staff that it is a safeguarding concern
- Notify the Club Welfare Officer, who will inform the County FA

v. If the CWO is unavailable:

You can contact:

- **Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA Welfare Officer**
Email: safeguarding@sheffieldfa.com
- The FA Safeguarding Team – 0800 169 1863
- Police or Children's Social Care
- NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000 / help@nspcc.org.uk

10. Further Support and Guidance

Advice and information on safeguarding can be obtained from:

- **Sheffield & Hallamshire FA Welfare Officer**
Email: safeguarding@sheffieldfa.com
- The FA's safeguarding guidance: www.TheFA.com/safeguarding
- The FA Safeguarding Team: safeguarding@TheFA.com
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk