CROSBY STUART JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Safeguarding Policy for 16–17 Year Olds

Based on The FA's template for clubs with 16 and 17 year old players · England Football Accredited ★★★

Crosby Stuart JFC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person directly connected with the club and is committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that those aged 16/17 years of age are legally defined as children and therefore we have a responsibility to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place. As such, we subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

1. Our principles

Crosby Stuart JFC endorses and adopts the following key safeguarding principles:

- 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, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity;
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
- working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential.

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. Crosby Stuart JFC recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

2. Our role

Crosby Stuart JFC 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 FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook) apply to everyone in football, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including coaches/managers, volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, medical staff or other club officials/helpers.

3. Safer recruitment

We endorse and adopt The FA's Safer Recruitment guidelines 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;
- ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone; and
- where eligible, require an FA-accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check, in line with The FA's current Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations.

All current Crosby Stuart JFC members working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as coaches/managers and physiotherapists, are required to hold an in-date FA-accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check as part of safer recruitment practice.

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. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of a club official who is already involved, or who has approached us to become part of Crosby Stuart JFC, guidance will be sought from Liverpool FA.

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.

4. Whistleblowing

Crosby Stuart JFC supports The FA's Whistleblowing Policy, under which any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football can 'whistleblow' 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. Crosby Stuart JFC encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistleblowing Policy and to use it if necessary.

5. Bullying

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 access our Anti-Bullying Policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately. Incidents need to be reported in accordance with section 6 below. In cases of serious bullying, the Liverpool FA Designated Safeguarding Officer may be contacted.

6. Reporting concerns

In this club, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option. If anyone is worried about a child, it is important that they report their concerns to a Club Welfare Officer or a member of the club committee, who will deal with reported concerns as follows:

1. The Club Welfare Officer ("CWO") or a member of the club committee will manage poor practice and, where necessary, seek advice from the Liverpool FA Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).
2. The CWO or a member of the club committee will make referrals about more serious concerns to the Liverpool FA DSO or, in an emergency, contact the Police or Children's Social Care.

3. If the child needs immediate medical treatment, we will take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them it is a child protection concern.
4. The CWO or a member of the club committee will keep records of the actions taken and keep the Liverpool FA DSO informed.
5. If the CWO or a member of the club committee is not available at any time, or the matter is clearly serious, all our members should be aware that they can contact the Liverpool FA DSO directly; contact The FA's Safeguarding Team on 0800 169 1863 or Safeguarding@TheFA.com; contact the Police or Children's Social Care; and/or call the NSPCC Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.

7. Our commitment

The Crosby Stuart JFC committee understands and accepts our collective responsibility to adhere to our safeguarding children policy and procedures. We commit to ensuring our members are aware of and have access to our policies.

> The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures (including the anti-bullying policy) and Safer Recruitment guidance are available at **TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding**.

Who to contact

Club Welfare Officers
Von Parker Sheridan (Girls) · **Joe Buckley** (Boys)
welfare@crosbystuart.co.uk

Club Secretary
Jan Meadows
secretary@crosbystuart.co.uk

Liverpool FA Safeguarding
Safeguarding@LiverpoolFA.com · 0151 523 4488

The FA Safeguarding Team
Safeguarding@TheFA.com · 0800 169 1863

If a child is in immediate danger, call 999. NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000 · Childline 0800 1111

APPROVED BY	POSITION	DATE
Ben McDonald	**Chair, Crosby Stuart JFC**	**19 November 2026**