CROSBY STUART JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Safeguarding Children Policy

Based on The FA's template for clubs with youth teams · England Football Accredited ★★★

As an England Football Accredited Club, Crosby Stuart JFC acknowledges our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person and is committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that a child is anyone under the age of 18 and subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

1. Our responsibilities

Our club 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.

Crosby Stuart JFC acknowledges that every child or young person who plays or participates in football must be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice, inappropriate behaviour and abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club, including the parents/carers of our players, and we will effectively communicate this to our members throughout the season.

Crosby Stuart JFC commits to ensuring that children and young people have the right to take part, be heard and have their views and opinions taken into consideration when making club decisions and actions that concern them.

2. Our role

Crosby Stuart JFC has a responsibility to safeguard 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, where an individual is going to take on a specific role for the club, 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.

Everyone working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as coaches/managers, first aiders and physiotherapists, is required to hold an in-date FA-accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check as part of safer recruitment practice, and we commit to managing this consistently with individuals in current roles and those new to role.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved, or who has approached us to become part of Crosby Stuart JFC, guidance will always be sought from the Liverpool County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

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 football being used in the grooming of children.

> See also our **Safer Recruitment Policy**.

4. Our Club Welfare Officers

Crosby Stuart JFC has appointed Club Welfare Officers (Youth Teams) ("CWO") in line with The FA's role profile, who have completed the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer courses. We commit to supporting the post holders to be involved with ongoing Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or Liverpool FA.

- **Von Parker Sheridan** – Club Welfare Officer (Girls)
- **Joe Buckley** – Club Welfare Officer (Boys)
- Contact both at **welfare@crosbystuart.co.uk**

Our CWOs are the first point of contact for all parents/carers and club officials regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. Their role and contact information is widely communicated throughout the club. The CWOs will liaise directly with the Liverpool FA DSO and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of respect, acceptable behaviours, how to deal with low-level concerns and how to report abuse.

We recognise the need for proportionality in appointing individuals to the role of CWO (Youth Teams) and, where appropriate, Assistant CWO (Youth Teams) to ensure visibility for our membership. Where needed, we will appoint Assistant Club Welfare Officers (Youth Teams) to support the club and CWOs to bring this policy to life and to drive safer working practice and a proactive culture.

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. All players and parents/carers will be able to access our Anti-Bullying Policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO and, in cases of repeated and/or serious bullying, the Liverpool FA DSO may be contacted.

6. Acceptable behaviour when working with young people

Everyone who works or volunteers with children is responsible and accountable for the way in which they behave around and towards them. Every child has a right to be treated with respect and dignity. We always require adults within our club to exhibit acceptable behaviour, and we adopt The FA's Acceptable Behaviours guidance.

Codes of conduct for players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by our club. The club has clear actions it will take regarding breaches of the codes, repeated or serious misconduct at club level, and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.

7. 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, they must report their concerns to our CWO (Youth Teams).

- Our CWO will manage low-level concerns and, where necessary, seek advice from the Liverpool FA DSO.
- Our CWO will make referrals about more serious concerns to the Liverpool FA DSO or, in an emergency, contact the Police or Children's Social Care. 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.
- Our CWO will keep records of the actions taken and keep the Liverpool FA DSO informed.

If at any time our CWO is not available, or the matter is clearly serious, all our members must be aware that they can:

- contact the Liverpool FA DSO directly – Safeguarding@LiverpoolFA.com · 0151 523 4488;
- contact The FA's Safeguarding Team – Safeguarding@TheFA.com · 0800 169 1863;
- 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.

8. Whistleblowing

Crosby Stuart JFC supports The FA's Whistleblowing Policy, which requires any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football to 'whistleblow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team: 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. We encourage everyone to know about The FA's Whistleblowing Policy and to use it when necessary.

> See also our **Whistleblowing Policy**.

9. Our commitment

As an England Football Accredited Club, our committee understands and accepts the collective responsibility to adhere to our safeguarding children policy and procedures and to ensure that safeguarding is always an agenda item at our committee meetings. We commit to proactively sharing our policy, procedures and CWO contact details with our members.

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**