

CHILD WELLBEING AND PROTECTION IN SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



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WHAT TO ASK — UNDERSTANDING WELLBEING AND PROTECTION AT SCOTTISH FOOTBALL CLUBS

Choosing the right football club for you and your child is an important task. You should have confidence that when your child is taking part in football they will be able to do so in a fun and safe environment. By asking these questions, you should have a better understanding of what the football club will do to keep your child safe.

ASK THE CLUB:

1. IS THE CLUB A MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OR ONE OF ITS AFFILIATED NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OR LEAGUES?

To take part in **regulated football** every club and/or team must be a member of the relevant Association or League. A number of clubs are members of the Scottish FA, however, the majority of youth football teams will be a member of one of the Scottish FA's Affiliated National Associations, for example, Scottish Youth Football Association (SYFA), Scottish Women's Football (SWF) or Scottish Para-Football.

Ask your club which Association or League they are a member of. You can find more information on the Affiliated National Associations at [Affiliated Bodies | Scottish Football Association | Scottish FA](#).

2. DOES THE CLUB HAVE A CHILD WELLBEING AND PROTECTION POLICY?

All regulated clubs must have a **Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy** (CWP Policy). The CWP Policy sets out how everyone involved in football will safeguard the wellbeing of your child and promote their rights.

The CWP Policy includes the procedures for the safe appointment of staff/volunteers working with children and young people (see question 5 for more information on how the club will do this) and how the club will respond to a concern about the wellbeing of a child or the conduct of an adult (see question 4 for more information).

Ask your club where you can find the club's CWP Policy. This may be on the website of the Association if the club is a member of an Affiliated National Association.

For further information on the CWP Policy see '[Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy for Scottish Football: A guide for parents and carers](#)'.

3. DOES THE CLUB HAVE WRITTEN STANDARDS OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR CLUB OFFICIALS, AND THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS?

The **Sets the Standards** in the Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy sets out how all club officials who work or volunteer with children and young people will be expected to act. All officials will be asked to sign up to the Set the Standards as part of their mandatory child wellbeing training.

Everyone involved in Scottish Football is responsible for setting the standards to make the game a safe and enjoyable place for children and young people, this includes parents and carers and children and young people! It is important that you lead by example and if you are asked to sign a code of conduct by your child's club, that you follow this code and encourage your child to live by the standards too.



4. WHO CAN YOU CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN?

Every regulated club **must** have a person in place who is responsible for ensuring that the wellbeing and protection standards are in place across the club and listen to and respond to any concerns about the wellbeing of a child or the conduct of an adult. In Scottish Football this person is usually called the **Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer** but may also be known as a Safeguarding Officer or Child Welfare Officer.

If the Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer needs to respond to a concern, they will do this in line with the Responding to Concerns Procedure which is part of the club's Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy.

The Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer should introduce themselves to the children and young people and their parents/carers and let you know how you can contact them. If you do not know who the Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer is at your club, ask!

5. HAVE ALL THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE CLUB BEEN APPOINTED THROUGH THE APPOINTMENT AND SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR SCOTTISH FOOTBALL?

All staff and volunteers working with children and young people must be appointed in line with the **Appointment and Selection Procedure**. This will include asking for references, completing the necessary legal checks and making sure that staff and volunteers have completed the mandatory training before they start working or volunteering.

6. DOES THE CLUB ASK FOR PARENTAL CONSENT AND EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS?

At the start of every season, a safe club should ask you to **sign a consent form** on behalf of your child. This should ask for emergency contact information, important medical information e.g., allergies, underlying medical conditions and whether there is anything else that the club need to know about for your child to get the most out of the sport or activity.

The consent form will also include information on how the club will communicate with you and how the club will take and use photographs or videos of your child participating in football activities.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO AS A PARENT/CARER?

- Make sure you know who the Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer is at your child's club
- Talk to your child about their football and listen to any worries or concerns they might have. Share these with the club's Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer
- Make sure that the consent form for your child is up to date and accurate
- Be a positive role model and set a good example
- Encourage and support your child to take part and reach their own potential
- Let the club know if you are going to be late to collect your child or arrangements are changing
- Check the travel arrangements and itinerary for any trips away
- Ask questions if you are unsure about anything



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