

“Using football as a vehicle to empower and provide opportunities for all young people”



Leicester Nirvana Safeguarding Policy

Leicester Nirvana Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any football activity. We subscribe to the FA's child protection and best practice policy and procedures and endorse and adopt the policy statement contained in that document.

The key principles of the FA Child Protection Policy are that:

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 age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation

All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately

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. Leicester Nirvana Football Club recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

We have 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 Football Association's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see The FA Handbook) applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club official or medical staff.

We endorse and adopt The FA's Responsible Recruitment guidelines for recruiting volunteers 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
- Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA guidelines.

All current members who are regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of children and young people will be required to complete a DBS check..

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.

We have appointed a Club Welfare Officer in line with The FA's role profile and required completion of the Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or County FA. The Club Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person.

Club Welfare Officer will liaise directly with the County FA (CFA) Welfare Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of **Respect**, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.



Sandhills Avenue, Hamilton, Leicester LE5 1QN
Telephone: 07928 973 948 Twitter: @LeicNirvanaFc
Facebook: facebook/leicester.nirvana
Web: www.leicesternirvanafc.com

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Reporting your concerns about the welfare of a child or young person. **Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility if you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns – no action is not an option.**

- i. If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.
- ii. If the issue is one of poor practice the Club Welfare Officer will either:
 - deal with the matter themselves or
 - seek advice from the CFA Welfare Officer
- iii. If the concern is more serious – possible child abuse, where possible, contact the CFA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children’s Services
- iv. If the child needs immediate medical treatment take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken, they in turn will inform the CFA Welfare Officer.
- v. If at any time you are not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer or the matter is clearly serious then you can either:
 - contact your CFA Welfare Officer directly
 - contact the Police or Children’s Services
 - call The FA/NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000 or Deaf users text phone 0800 056 0566 NB – The FA’s Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are available via www.TheFA.com/Footballsafes – click on the ‘downloads’ under Policy and Procedures. The policy outlines in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes flow diagrams which describe this process. How to make a referral is also covered in the Safeguarding Children workshop. Participants are given the opportunity to discuss how this feels and how best they can prepare themselves to deal with such a situation. For more information on this workshop contact your County Welfare Officer.

Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

Club Welfare Officer – Zak Hajat – 07811 843 136 – nirvanafc@hotmail.co.uk

Or

County FA Welfare Officer – Emma Haywood T: 0116 284 5936 Safeguarding@leicestershirecountyfa.com



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