

Portishead Town FC

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Policy Owner	Club Welfare Officer – Rachel Osmond
Supported by	Kirsty Ireland
Policy Type	Safeguarding & Child Protection
Applies to	All players, coaches, volunteers, officials and club members
Approved by	Portishead Town FC Board
Review Period	Annual

Contact: welfare@portisheadtownfc.com

1. Introduction

Portishead Town Football Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person entrusted to its care. We are committed to providing a safe environment for all members.

A child or young person is defined as anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club football activity. The club subscribes to The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Policy and endorses the policy statement contained within that document.

2. Key Principles

The FA Safeguarding Children Policy is based on the following principles:

- The child's welfare is always the paramount consideration.
- All children and young people have the 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.
- Working in partnership with organisations, children, young people and parents/carers is essential.

Every child involved in football should participate in a safe and enjoyable environment, free from poor practice and abuse. Portishead Town FC recognises that safeguarding is the responsibility of every adult involved in the club.

3. Role of Portishead Town FC in Safeguarding

Portishead Town FC plays a key role in safeguarding children and young people from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying.

The FA Child Protection Regulation applies to everyone in football, whether paid or voluntary. This includes volunteers, coaches, match officials, club officials, helpers and medical staff.

4. Responsible Recruitment

The club follows The FA Responsible Recruitment guidance for volunteers and staff:

- Developing a role profile.
- Requesting identification documents.
- Meeting and interviewing applicants before appointment.
- Requesting and verifying two references.
- Requiring an FA Enhanced DBS Disclosure where applicable.

All club members regularly working with children are required to complete an Enhanced DBS Disclosure. If concerns arise regarding an individual's suitability, guidance will be sought from The Football Association.

5. Whistleblowing Policy

Any concerns about an individual's behaviour should be reported to:

- The FA Child Protection Team (0207 745 4787)
- FA Case Manager – The Football Association, 25 Soho Square, London W1D 4FA
- Police, Children's Services or NSPCC where required

6. Club Welfare Officer (CWO)

Portishead Town FC has appointed Rachel Osmond as Club Welfare Officer (CWO). Rachel has completed The FA Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop.

Rachel is supported in this role by Kirsty Ireland.

- Acts as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Liaises with the County FA Welfare Officer.
- Promotes safeguarding awareness within the club.

Contact: welfare@portisheadtownfc.com

7. Board Safeguarding Champion

Rachel Osmond also serves as the Board Safeguarding Champion. This ensures strong alignment between operational safeguarding practice and board-level accountability.

- Provides strategic oversight of safeguarding within the club.
- Ensures safeguarding policies are reviewed and maintained.
- Supports a safe environment for all participants.

Contact: welfare@portisheadtownfc.com

8. Bullying Prevention

Bullying is recognised as a form of abuse. Any reports of bullying should be directed to the Club Welfare Officer and may be escalated to the County FA Welfare Officer if required.

9. Respect Codes of Conduct

Portishead Town FC implements FA Respect Codes of Conduct for players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches. Misconduct will be addressed by the club and may be escalated to the County FA.

10. Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

If you have concerns about a child:

- Report the concern to the Club Welfare Officer.
 - If the issue relates to poor practice, the CWO will manage or seek advice from the County FA Welfare Officer.
 - If the concern involves possible abuse, the matter will be referred to the County FA Welfare Officer and potentially Police or Children's Services.
 - In a medical emergency, seek immediate treatment and inform the County FA Welfare Officer.
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- County FA Welfare Officer
 - NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000
 - Police or Children's Services

11. Additional Safeguarding Resources

- FA Safeguarding Team – 0800 169 1863
- Email: Safeguarding@TheFA.com
- Contact the County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer