

## **Child safeguarding policy**

### Policy statement

MW Coaching is committed to providing football in a fun, safe and respectful environment for all children. We recognise children's right to be free from all forms of abuse and acknowledge our duty of care to safeguard them.

### Purpose of the policy

This policy provides a framework to ensure that children are safeguarded in the delivery of our sport. It applies to all those under 18, without discrimination of any kind. We acknowledge that some children can be particularly vulnerable to abuse (e.g. disabled children, or those on elite pathways), and we accept the responsibility to promote their inclusion, safety and well-being across our sports.

### Scope of the policy

This policy applies to the following people (this is not an exhaustive list): coaches/instructors; medical staff; managers; administrators; coordinators; volunteers; parents/guardians; peer/youth mentors; implementing partners; consultants/contractors/subcontractors.

It covers the following definitions:

**Child:** a person under the age of 18 years.

**Child abuse:** an act or omission that harms a child. Abuse towards a child can be carried out by an adult or by another child. It can be physical, emotional, sexual or by neglect. Abuse can take place in person or online.

**Safeguarding:** the action taken to ensure that all children are safe from harm when involved in football. It means proactively doing everything possible to minimize risk and prevent abuse of children.

**Child protection:** refers to the action taken in response to a specific concern for a child or children who may be suffering or are at risk of suffering harm or abuse. It is an essential part of safeguarding and requires referral to specialized child protection services, law-enforcement

agencies and expert local organizations who are trained to advise on and manage cases, if concerns arise.

As part of our policy we will:

- Appoint a safeguarding officer.
- Ensure appropriate and immediate action is taken to address allegations of abuse through referral of concerns to the relevant statutory authorities.
- Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals (staff and volunteers) in football & all sports through safe recruitment and screening procedures.
- Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding in sports and provide all staff and volunteers with appropriate training when joining the organization.
- Require all members of staff and volunteers to sign and comply with the code of conduct.
- Ensure children are informed of their rights and understand where to go if they have concerns or need help.
  - Ensure that confidential and accurate records of concerns, allegations, and reports and submitted evidence provided are maintained and securely stored.
- Ensure that we continually evaluate how children are involved in sports in our club and review our safeguarding practices on a regular basis, at least annually, to ensure that we learn and improve safeguarding, in keeping with evolving best practices and national legislation.

Failure by staff and volunteers to comply with this policy will be investigated and may result in dismissal.

Monitoring: This policy will be reviewed annually

(Last reviewed on 2023)

Approved by: Director of MW Coaching.

Marimba Wanda,

