



Child Protection Policy

Every child and young person who plays football should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of **every adult** involved in football and within our Club.

We recognise, however, that child abuse is also a very emotive and difficult subject. It is important to understand the feelings involved but not to allow them to interfere with our judgement about any action to be taken.

Hereford Lads Club recognises its 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. We are determined to meet our obligation to ensure that those clubs and organisations providing football opportunities for children and young people do so to the highest possible standard of care.

Clear practices and procedures, in addition to a detailed training programme, are already underway, which will ensure that everyone knows exactly what is expected of them in relation to the protection of children and young people within our sport.

It is essential that those children and young people attracted to and participating in football are able to do so in a quality, safe and enjoyable environment. In striving to attain this, the Hereford Lads Club has the following objectives:

- Included in our rules is a policy statement concerning child protection as suggested by the FA
- It is a requirement that, as with all bodies affiliated to the Football Association as Charter Standard Organisations or affiliated through County Associations which provide the opportunity to work with children and young people up to the age of 18, included in our rules is a policy statement concerning child protection
- To provide ongoing development and training opportunities for members through the FA Coaches Association, as an integral part of all FA coaching, medical education courses and courses for referees; in staff development courses for members through the County Football Association Structure; through the process of attaining and maintaining the FA Accreditation.

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The Aims of the Child Protection Policy are:

- To develop a positive and proactive position in order to best protect all children and young people who play football, enabling them to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- To demonstrate best practice in the area of child protection.
- To promote ethics and high standards throughout football.

The key principles underpinning this policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- All children and young people have the right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity.

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