

PENWORTHAM TOWN/BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB

Founder members - Central Lanc's J.F.L.
Founder members - Mid Lanc's colts J.F.L.
Founder members - L.E.P. Youth Division
Founder members - Preston City Football D. L.
Affiliated to the Lancashire Football Association

Child Protection Policy

Every child and young person who plays for **Penwortham Town/Boys F.C.** 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.

We as a club 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. The Football Association 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.

It is determined to meet its 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 already under way, 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 trying to attain this The Football Association has the following objectives:

1. A requirement that The F.A. Premier league and The Football League include in their rules a policy statement concerning child protection.
2. A requirement that all bodies affiliated to The Football Association as Charter Standard organisations, affiliated through the County Associations, which provide the opportunity to work with children and young people up to the age of eighteen, include in their rules a policy statement concerning child protection.
3. To provide ongoing development and training opportunities to all organisations as mentioned above.
4. To provide ongoing development and training opportunities:
 - for members of the F.A. Coaches Association
 - as an integral part of all F.A. Coach and Medical Education courses and courses for referees
 - through the process of attaining and maintaining the Charter Standard Award.

The aims of The F.A. Child Protection Policy are:

1. To develop a positive and pro-active position in order to best protect all children and young people who play football, enabling them to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
2. To deliver quality assured child protection training and build a network of tutors to facilitate this delivery, in conjunction with and the supported by, the N.S.P.C.C.
3. To demonstrate best practice in the area of child protection.
4. To promote ethics and high standards throughout football.

The key principles underpinning this policy are that:

1. The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
2. All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
3. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. Working in partnership with children and young people and their parents/guardians is essential. Social Services Department have a statutory responsibility to ensure the welfare of children and young people. The Football Association is committed to working together with Social Services Departments and local Area Child Protection Committees (ACPC) in accordance with their procedures.

The Football Association's Regulations on child protection are defined in The F.A. Handbook.

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The Association of:
 - 3.1. Notification that an individual has been charged with an offence; or
 - 3.2. Notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the police, social services or any other authority relating to an offence; or
 - 3.3. Any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and such terms and conditions that it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:-
 - 4.1. Whether a child or children are or may be at risk of harm;
 - 4.2. Whether the matters are of a serious nature;
 - 4.3. Whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
5. The period of an order referred to in Regulation 3 above shall not be capable of lasting

beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.

6. When an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

7. Where a person is convicted or made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football for such period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

8. For the purpose of these Regulations, The Association shall act through it's council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.

9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which they are associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

Conclusion.

The Football Association, through confirming this Policy Document, has indicated it's determination to ensure that children and young people can participate in all forms of football activity and do so with their safety being of paramount importance.

Penwortham Town/Boys F.C. take very seriously the Children and Young Persons Act1933

Any parent/guardian who feels our club is breaching this act please contact:

Warren Jackson