

Junior Midweek 7s – Safeguarding Policy

Updated: April 2025

Our Commitment to Safeguarding

At Junior Midweek 7s, the welfare of every child and young person is our highest priority. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable football environment for all players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

We believe that:

- Every child should be respected, valued, and heard.
- Everyone involved in football has a duty to protect children's welfare.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

To support this, we:

- Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for the league.
 - Follow The FA's Safeguarding Children policies and procedures.
 - Require all coaches, referees, and officials to have valid DBS checks and up-to-date safeguarding training.
 - Promote a culture where children feel safe and supported.
 - Respond swiftly and appropriately to any concerns or disclosures.
 - Enforce clear codes of conduct for players, parents, coaches, and officials.
 - Regularly review and strengthen our safeguarding practices.
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1. Safeguarding Commitment

We are committed to providing a safe and positive environment for all young people involved in Junior Midweek 7s. We adhere to safeguarding best practices as outlined by **The FA**, the **NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)**, and current UK legislation.

2. Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Name: Laura Thomas

Email: admin@junormidweek7s.co.uk

The DSO is responsible for:

- Responding to safeguarding concerns or disclosures
- Liaising with The FA, County FA, and statutory authorities
- Ensuring all league staff and match officials follow safeguarding procedures
- Promoting a safe culture throughout the league

3. Safer Recruitment

All league staff, referees, coaches, and team managers must:

- Hold a valid FA DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) check
 - Complete The FA's Safeguarding Children Course
 - Provide references if required
 - Understand and commit to safeguarding responsibilities
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4. Code of Conduct

All participants and stakeholders must follow the Junior Midweek 7s Code of Conduct, which includes:

- Treating all children with respect and dignity
 - Never engaging in inappropriate behaviour or communication
 - Promoting fair play and positive behaviour
 - Immediately reporting any concerns or incidents
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5. Supervision & Matchday Safeguarding

- Each team must have a minimum of **1 registered club official present** at every match.
 - At least one adult per team must hold a valid DBS.
 - One-on-one adult-child situations are **not permitted** without parental/guardian consent.
 - First aid and emergency protocols must be in place and communicated before each fixture.
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6. Photography & Media

- Photographs and videos may only be taken **with parental consent**.
 - Images must never be used inappropriately or shared without permission.
 - Player ID photos are strictly for registration and identification use only.
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7. Managing Concerns & Disclosures

If a child makes a disclosure or you witness concerning behaviour:

1. **Listen calmly and without judgment.**
2. **Do not promise confidentiality.**

3. **Record details** including who was involved, what happened, when, and where.
4. **Report immediately** to the League DSO.
5. For serious/urgent issues, contact the County FA Safeguarding Officer or emergency services.

If a child is in immediate danger:

- Call **999** (Police)
 - Contact the **NSPCC Helpline**: 0808 800 5000
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8. Online Communication

- All league communication with players under 18 will go **through parents/guardians only**.
 - No private messaging or direct contact with players on social media is permitted.
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9. Data Protection & Confidentiality

- Safeguarding records are held securely and shared only when necessary with relevant authorities.
 - We comply with UK GDPR and data protection regulations to protect children's personal data.
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10. Policy Review

This policy and safeguarding procedures will be reviewed **annually**, or as necessary to remain aligned with The FA and UK safeguarding legislation.