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# **Child Protection Policy**

Winnersh Rangers Football Club

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## Document Control

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## Change History

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Change Details</b>	<b>Change By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Issue 0.1	Initial draft	Graeme Parker	11/11/2004
Issue 1.0	Finalised	Graeme Parker	16/02/2005
Issue 1.1	Updated	Sam Dean	23/05/2007
Issue 1.2	Updated	Neil Chalfont	1/12/2008

## **Introduction**

The introduction of this Child Protection Policy should be seen as a clear signal by Winnersh Rangers Football Club that it is determined to ensure all necessary steps are taken to protect from harm, those children associated with the Football Club.

The policy establishes the Football Club's position, role and responsibilities and together with the Procedures Handbook, clarifies what is expected of every volunteer who serves the Winnersh Rangers Football Club.

It very clearly highlights the importance placed by the Football Club on the protection of children.

Every child who plays football for the club should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every volunteer who serves the 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. Winnersh Rangers Football Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children associated with the club by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

The Winnersh Rangers Football Club is determined to meet its obligation and to ensure that all members are aware of the club's Child Protection Policy, practices and procedures. This will ensure that everyone knows exactly what is expected of them in relation to the protection of children associated with the Football Club.

## **Objectives**

The Winnersh Rangers Football Club Child Protection Policy objectives are;

- To develop a positive and pro-active position in order to best protect all children associated with the club enabling them to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- To deliver quality assured child protection training for all volunteers in conjunction with The Football Association and the NSPCC.
- To demonstrate best practice in the area of child protection.
- To ensure that all Volunteers that come in contact with children or young people associated with the club are CRB checked and cleared.

## Key Principles

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

## The Winnersh Rangers Football Club Regulations

The regulations on child protection are defined in the Winnersh Rangers Procedures Handbook.

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to 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 Football Club 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:-
  - a. notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence.
  - b. notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, social services or any other authority relating to an Offence.
  - c. any other information which causes The Football Club reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Football Club shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Football Club shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:-
  - a. whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm.
  - b. whether the matters are of a serious nature
  - c. whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Football Club or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
5. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The Football Club shall bring and conclude any proceedings against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
6. Where a person is convicted or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Football Club

and The Football Club 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.

7. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Football Club shall act through its Council or committee or sub-committee thereof.
8. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned as soon as reasonably practicable.

## **Conclusion**

The Winnersh Rangers Football Club, through confirming this Policy Document, has indicated its 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.

It is essential that this document is representative of a process of continual improvement in the area of child protection within the Football Club. It is for all volunteers serving the Football Club in football activities to promote good practice and procedures, whilst being ever vigilant and aware of their responsibilities towards the children in their care.