



Thurlby Tigers FC – Safeguarding Policy for Clubs with 16-17 Year Old Players

Introduction

Children have rights; in football this includes the right to be safe and have fun. Children must also have the opportunity to develop healthy relationships with appropriate boundaries.

At Thurlby Tigers Football Club, we acknowledge our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person and we are committed to providing a safe environment for all. We recognise that those aged 16/17 years-of-age are legally defined as children and therefore we have a responsibility to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place. As such, we subscribe to The Football Association's (The FA) Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures (see Contacts section for more information).

Thurlby Tigers Football Club endorses and adopts the following key safeguarding principles:

- the child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;
- all children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their; age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity;
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
- working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents/carers is essential. We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse.

At Thurlby Tigers Football Club, we recognise that safeguarding children is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.

Legislation

Thurlby Tigers Football Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations (see Contacts section for more information) apply to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including coaches/managers, volunteers, match officials, helpers on club tours, or medical staff or other club officials/helpers.

Principles

Prevention

Thurlby Tigers Football Club will establish and maintain an environment where children feel safe in both the real and the virtual world including in a digital context and are encouraged to talk and are listened to and will ensure children know that there are adults in the club whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate.

In safeguarding, 'Best Practice' means behaving in a way that puts the children first. At Thurlby Tigers Football Club this means all adults and people working with children understanding and following the FA Respects Codes of Conduct (see Resources section for more information) and completing the FA Safeguarding for All online training (see Resources section for more information) as a basic minimum.

Thurlby Tigers Football Club has a Club Welfare Officer (Youth Teams) ("CWO") in line with The FA's role profile who has completed the FA Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officers Workshop. The post holder will be involved with ongoing Welfare Officer training provided by The FA and/or CFA. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members

regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person (see Contacts section for more information). The CWO will liaise directly with the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer and will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. The CWO will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of best practice, respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

Thurlby Tigers Football Club acknowledges and endorses The FA's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all players and parents/carers should be able to access our anti-bullying policy and know that incidents will be dealt with appropriately. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO and in cases of serious bullying the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer may be contacted.

Codes of conduct for Players, Parents/ Spectators, Officials and Coaches (as required by the CPSU Safeguarding Standards) have been implemented by Thurlby Tigers Football Club. In order to police these codes of conduct the club has clear actions it will take regarding repeated or serious misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by the CFA in more serious circumstances.

Preventing unsuitable people working with children

Thurlby Tigers Football Club endorses and adopts The FA's Safer Recruitment guidelines (see Resources section) and we will:

- Specify what the role is and what tasks it involves;
- Request identification documents;
- As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant(s) and where possible interview people before appointing them;
- Ask for and follow up with 2 references before appointing someone; and
- Where eligible require an FA- accepted DBS enhanced with barred list Check, in line with The FA's current Safeguarding Children Policy and Regulations.

All current Thurlby Tigers Football Club members working in eligible roles with children and young people, such as coaches/managers and physiotherapists, are required to hold an in-date FA accepted DBS enhanced with barred list check as part of safer recruitment practice.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Thurlby Tigers Football Club, guidance will be sought from the County Football Association (CFA). It is noted and accepted that The FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the DBS process and that all suitability decisions will be made in accordance with legislation and in the best interests of children and young people.

It is accepted that The FA aims to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children and to minimise the risk of 'grooming' within football.

Procedures

At Thurlby Tigers Football Club, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we know that inaction is not an option. If anyone is worried about a child, it is important that they report their concerns to the CWO, who will deal with reported concerns as follows:

- i. Our CWO will manage poor practice and where necessary seek advice from the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer (CFA DSO).
- ii. Our CWO will make referrals about more serious concerns to the CFA DSO, or in an emergency contact the Police or Children's Social Care.
- iii. We will ensure that if the child needs immediate medical treatment that we take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them it is a child protection concern.
- iv. Our CWO will keep records of the actions taken and keep the CFA DSO informed.
- v. If at any time our Club Welfare Officer is not available, or the matter is clearly serious, all our members should be aware that they can:
 - Contact the Lincolnshire CFA DSO directly: Sarah Pridmore on **01522 596580** or **07973 666778**

or sarah.pridmore@lincolnshirefa.com

- Contact The FA's Safeguarding Team on **0800 169 1863** or Safeguarding@TheFA.com
- Contact the Police or Children's Social Care on **01522 782111** (Lincs) or **0345 045 5203** (Cambs and P'boro); and/or
- Call the NSPCC 24-hour Helpline for advice on **0808 800 5000** or text **88858** or email help@nspcc.org.uk

Thurlby Tigers Football Club supports The FA's Whistle Blowing policy (as described in this paragraph) which requires any adult or young person with concerns about an adult in a position of trust within football to 'whistle blow' by contacting The FA Safeguarding Team on **0800 169 1863**, by writing to The FA Case Manager at The Football Association, Wembley Stadium, PO Box 1966, London SW1P 9EQ, by emailing Safeguarding@TheFA.com or alternatively by going direct to the Police, Children's Social Care or the NSPCC. Thurlby Tigers Football Club encourages everyone to know about The FA's Whistle Blowing Policy (see Resources section) and to utilise it if necessary.

Contacts

Role	Name	Email	Signature	Date
Chairperson	Derek Bell	chairman@thurlbytigersfc.co.uk	D Bell	01/06/2021
Secretary	Phil Davies	secretary@thurlbytigersfc.co.uk	P Davies	01/06/2021
Club Welfare Officer (Youth)	Rebecca Bell	welfare@thurlbytigersfc.co.uk	R Bell	01/06/2021
Assistant Club Welfare Officer (Youth)	Giles Thursk Gavin Bell Phil Davies Barry Gray	welfare@thurlbytigersfc.co.uk	P Davies G Bell G Thirsk B Gray	01/06/2021
Treasurer	Michael Austin	treasurer@thurlbytigersfc.co.uk	M Austin	01/06/2021

Lincolnshire CFA DSO

Sarah Pridmore on **01522 596580** or **07973 666778** or sarah.pridmore@lincolnshirefa.com

The FA Safeguarding Team

0800 169 1863 or Safeguarding@TheFA.com

Children's Social Care

01522 782111 (Lincs) or **0345 045 5203** (Cambs and P'boro)

NSPCC

0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

The FA's Safeguarding Children Regulations (including Whistle Blowing details)

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/policy-downloads>

Resources

The FA Respects Codes of Conduct

<https://www.thefa.com/get-involved/respect/play-your-part>

The FA Safeguarding for All – online training

<https://falearning.thefa.com/course/index.php?categoryid=250>

The FA Safer Recruitment Guidelines

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks>

The FA Understanding Children's Rights

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-7-children-and-young-people-under-18s>

The FA Safeguarding Guidance for Parents and Carers

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-8-parents-and-carers>

The FA Safeguarding in the Digital World

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-8-parents-and-carers>

Reviewed By	Review Date	Sign Off	Comments
<i>P Davies</i>	<i>10/05/19</i>	<i>P Davies</i>	<i>Amends to sections</i>
<i>S Ward</i>	<i>15/09/21</i>	<i>P Davies</i>	<i>Updates to Document</i>