



Hornsea Town Football Club Child Protection Policy

The introduction of this Child Protection Policy should be seen as a clear signal by Hornsea Town Football Club that it is determined to ensure all necessary steps are taken to protect from harm, those children and young people who participate in football at all levels.

The policy establishes the club's position, role and responsibilities and, together with the club's Code of Conduct, clarifies what is expected of the club's members and individuals involved in the provision of youth football in Hornsea. It very clearly highlights the importance placed by Hornsea Town Football Club on the protection of children and young people.

The aims of The Child Protection Policy are:

To demonstrate best practice in the area of child protection and promote ethics and high standards throughout football.

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 the running of the football club and extends beyond the coaching and administrative membership to those who come into contact with children through attendance at training sessions and matches and also through the various social and fundraising activities that the club may host from time to time.

The 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.

The club is determined to meet its obligation to ensure that it provides football opportunities for children and young people with the highest possible standard of care.

The club recognises that child abuse is also a very emotive and difficult subject. It is important to understand the feelings of all parties involved but not to allow them to interfere with the club's judgement about any action that may have to be taken with respect to infringements of this policy and subsequent notification of appropriate authorities.

Clear practices and procedures as laid down in this policy and code of conduct will ensure that everyone knows exactly what is expected of them in relation to the protection of children and young people within our club.

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.



OBJECTIVES

In striving to attain the aims of The Child Protection Policy, Hornsea Town Football Club has the following objectives:

To maintain a written policy statement concerning child protection.

To embrace the ongoing development and training opportunities provided by the Football Association and County FA and extend to those involved in the organisation of the club's affairs the following training modules:

- i. To complete the FA Football Club Administration course.
- ii. To complete the FA Child Protection Course.
- iii. To ensure that at least one member of the coaching and administrative team has attended the Emergency First Aid and the Treatment of Injuries courses.
- iv. To provide at least one Level One standard coach within each age group.
- v. To provide at least one qualified referee within each age group.

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 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 children and young people and their parents/guardians is essential.

Social Services Departments have a statutory responsibility to ensure the welfare of children and young people. Hornsea Town Football Club is committed to supporting Social Services Departments and local Area Child Protection Committees (ACPC) in accordance with their procedures.

The club shall nominate a Child Protection Officer who will be responsible for keeping the club up to date with all current and ongoing issues relating to Child Protection.

Actions

Should a member of the club suspect that the guidelines of this policy have been breached by the behaviour or actions of any person/persons, whether directly connected to the club or otherwise, and that those actions have caused harm or potential risk of harm to a child, then the club is duty bound to report the matter to the appropriate authorities.



The Police
Social Services / NSPCC

The nominated Child Protection Officer will make such reports to the appropriate authority as they see fit and without prejudice. The responsibility for sanctions resulting from that report will then lie wholly with that authority.

The club also acknowledges the guidelines set down by the Football Association which make provision for such instances as follows:

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, 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 Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk to 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 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 Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:-
 - 4.1 whether a child is 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 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. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The Association 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 is 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 purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its 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 he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

CONCLUSION

Hornsea Town 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 football. It is for all adults engaged in football activities to promote good practice and procedures, whilst being ever vigilant and aware of their responsibilities towards the children and young people in their care.

Acknowledgments

This policy makes reference to the FA Child Protection Policy document drawn up in May 2000 in conjunction with the NSPCC.