



## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Total Sports Coaching's head of Child Protection is Mrs Laura Rattenbury who is also the club Welfare Officer.

1. Total Sport Coaching acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment to all of its members. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any football club activity.

Total Sports Coaching believes 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, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation
  - All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
  - Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents or carers is essential.
2. 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. Total Sports Coaching recognises that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in our club.
  3. Total Sports Coaching 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 Football Associations child protection regulation applies to everyone in football whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes those who are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, football coach, club officer or medical staff.
  4. We endorse and adopt the FA's Child Protection and Best Practice Guidelines for recruiting volunteers and will:
    - a. Develop a role profile
    - b. Request identification documents
    - c. As a minimum meet and chat with the applicant and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
    - d. Request and follow up with two references before appointing
    - e. Require an FA CRB Unit Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with FA Guidelines



5. All current Total Sports Coaching members with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure via the FA CRB Unit. If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached us to become part of Total Sports Coaching, guidance will be sought from the FA. It is noted that the FA will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via the FA CRB unit Enhanced CRB disclosure and that all decisions will be made 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.

6. Total Sports Coaching supports the FA's 'whistle blowing' policy. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can 'whistle blow' by contacting the FA Child Protection Manager on 0207 745 4771, by writing to the FA Case manager at The Football Association, 25 Soho Square, London W1D 4FA or by going direct to the police, social services or the NSPCC. Total Sports Coaching encourages everyone to know about it and utilise it if necessary.
7. We acknowledge and endorse 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, parents or guardians should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to the CWO, a member of the committee or, in cases of serious bullying contact the CFA CPO.
8. Codes of conduct for players, parents or spectators, officials and coaches have been implemented by Total Sports Coaching. In order to validate these codes of conduct the club has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by leagues or the CFA in more serious circumstances. All prospective members will be informed of these codes.
9. Video taking and Photographs – All staff should be vigilant when it comes to photos and video being taken. We do not intend to ban the use of cameras and video in order to analyse coaching and to promote the club. However, there is evidence that some people have used sporting events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage. It is therefore required that parents seek permission from Total Sports Coaching before taking such photographs or video.



In order to avoid 'grooming' photographs used by Total Sports Coaching will never be assisted by full names that will assist a third party in identifying the child.

10. Further advice on child protection matters can be obtained from:

- a. The County Football Associations Child Protection Officer
- b. The FA/NSPCC Child Protection
- c. 24 hour helpline – 0808 800 5000
- d. [www.thefa.com/goal](http://www.thefa.com/goal)
- e. The FA Child Protection Team on 0207 745 4649

If you need to contact Mrs Laura Rattenbury the welfare officer you can reach her at [laura@tscoaching.co.uk](mailto:laura@tscoaching.co.uk) or on 07974 723274



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