Dunmow Rovers Youth Football Club

Safeguarding Children Policy

1. Purpose, Scope and Principles

Dunmow Rovers Youth FC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child and young person who participates in its activities.

For the purposes of this policy, a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18.

This policy applies to all committee members, club officials, coaches, managers, volunteers, first aiders, parents/carers, spectators, and any other person acting on behalf of the Club.

The Club adopts and adheres to the safeguarding principles, policies and procedures of The Football Association (The FA) and will act in accordance with current FA safeguarding regulations and guidance.

The Club is guided by the following principles:

- The child's welfare is paramount.
- All children and young people have the right to be protected from abuse, regardless of personal characteristics.
- All safeguarding concerns will be taken seriously and responded to promptly and appropriately.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Effective safeguarding requires partnership working with children, parents/carers and external agencies.

The Club is committed to ensuring that all children and young people:

- Have a positive and enjoyable experience of football
- Feel safe, respected and valued
- Are listened to
- Have their views considered

RESPECT THE STANDARD
ACCREDITED CLUB ★ PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL
ENGLAND FOOTBALL RESPECT

2. Our Responsibilities

The Club has a duty of care to safeguard all children and young people from harm, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, bullying and exploitation.

The FA Safeguarding Children Regulations apply to everyone involved in football, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes:

- Coaches and managers
- Club officials
- Volunteers
- Match officials
- First aiders
- Team helpers
- Any other person working with children on behalf of the Club

3. Safer Recruitment

The Club adopts The FA's Safer Recruitment guidance.

When appointing individuals to roles within the Club, we will:

- Clearly define roles and responsibilities
- Verify identity
- Meet and discuss roles prior to appointment
- Obtain and check at least two references where appropriate
- Require an FA-accepted Enhanced DBS check (with barred list check where applicable)

All individuals in eligible roles must hold an in-date FA-accepted DBS check.

Where concerns arise regarding an individual's suitability, advice will be sought from the County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

4. Club Welfare Officer

The Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with FA requirements.

The CWO will:

- Be the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns
- Have completed FA safeguarding training
- Liaise with the County FA DSO
- Promote safeguarding awareness
- Support safer working practices

Club Welfare Officer Details

Name: Carly Winn

Email: welfareofficer@dunmowroversyouthfc.co.uk

Telephone: 07446028760

The Club will ensure the CWO is visible, accessible and appropriately supported.

5. Safer Working Practice and Conduct

All adults involved with the Club must maintain appropriate professional boundaries at all times.

This includes:

- Avoiding unnecessary one-to-one situations
- Ensuring any physical contact is appropriate and justified
- Not engaging in inappropriate or personal relationships with children
- Following Club guidance on supervision, changing rooms and transport
- Acting as positive role models

Codes of Conduct are in place for:

- Players
- Parents/carers and spectators
- Coaches and managers
- Club officials and volunteers

Breaches may result in disciplinary action and/or referral to the County FA.

6. Bullying

Bullying is not tolerated and is recognised as a form of abuse.

This includes:

- Physical
- Verbal
- Emotional
- Online/cyber
- Discriminatory bullying

All concerns must be reported to the Club Welfare Officer and will be addressed promptly.

7. Reporting Concerns

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Any concerns about a child's welfare must be reported immediately to the Club Welfare Officer.

Concerns should be reported:

- As soon as possible
- Even if there is no proof or full information
- Without attempting to investigate

Concerns may relate to:

- Abuse or neglect
- Bullying
- Poor practice
- Breaches of Codes of Conduct

The Club Welfare Officer will:

- Record concerns accurately and confidentially
- Seek advice where necessary
- Refer serious concerns to appropriate agencies

Confidentiality will be respected, but cannot be guaranteed where a child is at risk.

Emergency Situations

If a child is at immediate risk:

- Call 999
- Contact Police or Children's Social Care

If the CWO is unavailable, concerns can be reported to:

- Essex FA Designated Safeguarding Officer / Helen Hever / (01245) 393098 / helen.hever@essexfa.com
- Blackwater and Dengie League Welfare Officer / Angie Owen / welfare@bdyfl.org
- NSPCC Helpline / 0808 800 5000 / help@nspcc.org.uk

8. Whistleblowing

The Club supports The FA's Whistleblowing Policy.

Anyone with concerns about the behaviour of a person in a position of trust is encouraged to report them.

Reports can be made to:

- The FA Safeguarding Team
- The Police
- Children's Social Care
- The NSPCC

The Club will support anyone raising concerns in good faith.
www.essexfa.com/safeguarding-and-welfare

9. Online Safety and Communication

The Club promotes safe and responsible use of technology.

All adults must:

- Avoid private or one-to-one messaging with children
- Use approved communication channels where possible
- Include parents/carers in communications
- Maintain professional boundaries online

Any concerns about online behaviour must be reported.

10. Photography and Filming

The Club recognises that images can be used appropriately but must prioritise safeguarding.

The Club will:

- Obtain parental/carer consent where required
- Use images appropriately and for Club purposes only
- Avoid unnecessary identification of children
- Store images securely where applicable
- Remove images if consent is withdrawn

Any concerns must be challenged and reported.

11. Recording and Data Management

The Club will:

- Maintain confidential records of safeguarding concerns
- Store information securely
- Share information only where necessary to protect a child
- Handle data in line with data protection requirements

12. Our Commitment

The Club Committee accepts collective responsibility for safeguarding.

The Club commits to:

- Reviewing this policy annually
- Keeping safeguarding as a standing agenda item
- Promoting a safe and inclusive culture
- Supporting all volunteers in understanding safeguarding responsibilities
- Communicating this policy to all members

Policy Information

Policy Name: Safeguarding Children Policy

Club: Dunmow Rovers Youth FC

Version: 1.0

Approved By: Club Committee

Date Approved: June 2026

Review Date: May 2027

Policy Owner: Club Committee / Club Welfare Officer