

OOFBFC

SAFEGUARDING POLICY



FOOTBALL CLUB



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

ORANGEFIELD OLD BOYS FC SAFEGUARDING POLICY

PURPOSE

Orangefield Old Boys FC is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for all participants, particularly children, young people (under 18), and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding, in line with the Irish Football Association (IFA) Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedures, to protect everyone involved in our club from harm, abuse, or inappropriate behavior.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all club members, including players, coaches, volunteers, staff, parents/guardians, and spectators, across all club activities, including matches, training, and events.

PRINCIPLES

- **Welfare First:** The welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults is paramount.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all members must act to prevent harm.
- **Inclusive Environment:** We promote respect, equality, and inclusion for all participants.
- **Compliance:** We adhere to IFA safeguarding policies, UK Anti-Doping Rules, and legal requirements, including AccessNI vetting.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Club Welfare Officer (CWO): Garreth Wright (orangefieldobfc@gmail.com) is responsible for overseeing safeguarding, handling concerns, and liaising with the IFA and statutory agencies.
- All Members: Must report any safeguarding concerns promptly to the CWO or, if unavailable, to the IFA Safeguarding Manager (kevin.doyle@irishfa.com).
- Coaches/Volunteers: Must complete IFA Safeguarding Children and Young People training within 3-6 months of starting and refresh every 3 years. Those in regulated activity require an Enhanced AccessNI check, renewed every 3 years.

PROCEDURES

1. Recruitment and Vetting:

- All volunteers/staff in regulated activity (e.g., coaching, supervising children) must complete an Enhanced AccessNI check via the IFA.
- Safe recruitment practices include identity verification and reference checks.

2. Training and Education:

- All staff and volunteers engaging with youth teams must attend IFA-approved safeguarding training.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to understand this policy and report concerns.

3. Reporting Concerns:

- Concerns about a child's welfare or allegations of abuse must be reported immediately to the CWO.
- If the CWO is unavailable or implicated, contact the IFA Safeguarding Manager or statutory authorities (e.g., PSNI, Gateway Services).
- Confidentiality must be maintained, sharing information only with those who need to know.

4. Code of Conduct:

- All members must adhere to the IFA Codes of Conduct, promoting positive behavior and respect.
- Unacceptable behavior (e.g., bullying, harassment) will result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension or removal from the club.

Responding to Allegations:

- The CWO will assess and report allegations to the IFA and, if necessary, statutory agencies.
- The club will cooperate fully with investigations and prioritize the welfare of those affected.

IMPLEMENTATION

- This policy is personalised with Orangefield Old Boys FC and CWO details and is accessible to all members via the club website, noticeboards, and welcome packs.
- The policy is reviewed annually or when IFA guidance changes to ensure compliance.
- Breaches of this policy may lead to disciplinary action, including termination of membership or referral to authorities.

KEY CONTACTS

- Club Welfare Officer: Garreth Wright - orangefieldobfc@gmail.com
- IFA Safeguarding Manager: Kevin Doyle, kevin.doyle@irishfa.com
- Emergency Services: PSNI (999), Gateway Services (0300 123 4333)
- AccessNI Vetting: Contact the CWO for application forms.

APPROVAL

This policy was adopted by Orangefield Old Boys FC on [Insert Date] and is endorsed by the Club Committee.

For further guidance, refer to www.irishfa.com or contact kevin.doyle@irishfa.com.