



Sheppey Swifts FC - Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy Statement

Sheppey Swifts Football Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person involved in football. The club is committed to providing a safe, positive and enjoyable environment for all children and young people, free from abuse, harm, neglect or exploitation.

For the purpose of this policy, a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18. The club subscribes to and adopts The Football Association's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures, ensuring that the welfare of the child is paramount at all times.

2. Key Safeguarding Principles

Sheppey Swifts Football Club endorses the following core safeguarding principles, in line with FA guidance:

- The child's welfare is the paramount consideration
- All children have the right to be protected from abuse, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, background or ability
- All suspicions, concerns and allegations of abuse or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- Working in partnership with parents, carers, children, statutory agencies and football authorities is essential to safeguarding children
- Children have the right to be heard, and their views and opinions will be taken seriously in matters that affect them.

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to everyone involved in Sheppey Swifts Football Club, including:

- Players
- Coaches and managers



- Volunteers and committee members
- Match officials
- Parents, carers and spectators

The policy applies at all club activities, including training sessions, matches, tournaments, trips, online communications and social media interactions.

4. Club Roles and Responsibilities

Club Welfare Officer

Sheppey Swifts Football Club will appoint a trained Club Welfare Officer (CWO) who is DBS-checked and FA-approved. The Welfare Officer will:

- Act as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns
- Make referrals to the County FA or The FA where appropriate
- Support children, parents and volunteers with safeguarding issues
- Promote best safeguarding practice throughout the club.

Coaches, Managers and Volunteers

All adults working with children at the club must:

- Complete FA Safeguarding Children training and maintain valid certification
- Hold an accepted FA DBS Check where required
- Follow the club's Codes of Conduct and safer working practices
- Act as positive role models and challenge inappropriate behaviour.

5. Safer Recruitment

Sheppey Swifts Football Club is committed to safer recruitment practices and will:

- Ensure appropriate FA DBS checks are completed
- Verify qualifications, references and suitability before appointment



- Ensure safeguarding training is completed and kept up to date
- Apply The FA Safeguarding Children Regulations to all roles, whether paid or voluntary.

6. Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

Anyone who has a concern about the welfare of a child must report it immediately to the Club Welfare Officer.

All concerns, disclosures or allegations will be:

- Taken seriously
- Recorded accurately and confidentially
- Managed in line with The FA Reporting Procedures

Where necessary, concerns will be referred to the County FA, The FA Safeguarding Team, or statutory agencies such as Children's Social Care or the Police. Confidentiality will be maintained and information shared only on a need-to-know basis.

7. Poor Practice and Abuse

Poor practice includes inappropriate behaviour that does not constitute abuse but falls below expected standards. Abuse may be physical, sexual, emotional, neglectful, bullying or online.

The club acknowledges its responsibility to distinguish between poor practice and abuse and to follow the correct FA procedures in all cases.

8. Whistleblowing and Complaints

Sheppey Swifts Football Club supports a culture of openness and honesty. Any adult or young person who feels unable to raise concerns within the club may use The FA's whistleblowing procedures without fear of reprisal.



9. Policy Review

This Safeguarding Children Policy will be:

- Reviewed at least annually
- Updated in line with FA guidance and legislation
- Communicated to all members of the club

The club is fully committed to continuous improvement in safeguarding practice.