

How to report a concern

Information and guidance

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Ercall clots Club welfare officers:

- Sharon Lawton 07869 530505 lawtons@sky.com
- Steve Lawton 07869 463379 lawtons@sky.com
- Katie Lincoln 07730 355957 katielincoln2021@hotmail.com



Whistle blowing [how to express and report concern]

- What is whistle blowing ?
 - In football terms whistle blowing in regard to safeguarding is where you as an individual feel the need to reveal and raise concern over any malpractice or misconduct within the organisation.
 - To report a whistle-blow you do not need to be an adult, a young peer could also express any concerns they feel needed.



How to report a concern

If you feel there is something that needs to be revealed remember when regarding children's welfare and rights [upon the Child Care Act 2006] it is not an option to do nothing. There are 5 main ways to report a concern:

- report to the designated safeguarding officer [DSL]
- To your County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer. [Victoria Vespa]
- By emailing The FA Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@TheFA.com;
- If urgent and you cannot contact your club, league or County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer, you can contact the NSPCC Helpline for expert advice and support on **0808 800 5000** or help@nspcc.org.uk;
- If it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk, then call the Police or Children's Social Care in your area.

If unaware of who the FA DSL or the clubs DSL contact the committee members, contact information on the first slide.



What is considered concerning within football?

- Poor practice within a team arise when the rights and needs of children and young people participating are not the priority overall compromising their personal welfare.



- When insufficient care is taken to avoid injuries (e.g. by excessive training or inappropriate training for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players);
- Allowing abusive or concerning practices to go unreported (e.g. a coach who ridicules and criticizes players who make a mistake during a match);
- Allowing hazing practices to go unreported; • Placing children or young people in potentially compromising and uncomfortable situations with adults (e.g. inappropriate use by a coach of social media with a young player(s));
- Ignoring health and safety guidelines (e.g. allowing young players to set up goal posts unsupervised by adults);
- Failing to adhere to the club's codes of practice (e.g. openly verbally abusing the referee);
- Giving continued and unnecessary preferential treatment to individuals.

What happens once I report a concern?

Once a concern is made aware to a DSL an assessment to investigate the matter at hand will commence. [Based off of the training they have received].



The assessment will classify the case as:

- High and immediate-risk;
- Medium-risk;
- Lower-risk or poor practice.

If high and immediate-risk: the statutory authorities will be informed and within 24 hours a standard referral form outlining the case will be sent to The FA Safeguarding Case Management Team.

If medium-risk: a referral form will be sent to The FA Safeguarding Case Management Team within 24 hours and handled on a case-by-case basis. This means it may be referred to the statutory authorities or handled by The FA and relevant County FA in the case of grassroots football, or the DSO if the incident has occurred at a professional club.

If lower-risk or poor practice: it will be handled by the County FA in the case of grassroots football, or the club DSO if the incident occurs at a professional club.

Thereafter, just as in a legal case, there are various risk management actions which can be taken by The FA to safeguard children. These include education, mentoring, supervision and, where appropriate, suspensions.



In depth information can be found in the PDF linked below:

- [2-1-how-to-report-safeguarding-concerns-colour-version.pdf](#)

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**Let's make
football safe
and fun for
all**

