

OSCA Foundation Safeguarding Policy



1 Safeguarding Policy

OSCA Foundation acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child, young person and vulnerable adult who has been entrusted to the care of its Foundation and partners. It is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all of the members of the Foundation and Partners. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 involved in any Foundation or partner activity. A vulnerable adult is anyone who may be unable to take care of himself or herself or be unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or exploitation. We subscribe to the respective National Governing Body(NGB) Safeguarding Policy and endorse and accept the Policy Statement contained in that document.

2 The key principles of the Safeguarding Policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, ethnic origin, gender, special needs, disability, class or social background, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, colour or political persuasion.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse or poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately

3 We acknowledge that every child or young person or vulnerable adult who plays or participates in the activities of OSCA Foundation or partners should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in the Foundation and Partners.

4 OSCA Foundation has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that OSCA Foundation adopts the respective NGB Safeguarding Policy and related regulations and its application to everybody in OSCA Foundation and partners whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This means whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper, coach, club official or medical staff.

5 OSCA Foundation endorse and adopt the respective NGB's Safeguarding Policy on recruiting volunteers and staff and will require its Foundation and Partners and follow the recruitment procedures as set out in that policy and summarised below:

- Develop a job description or role profile
- As a minimum meet and chat with applicants and where possible conduct interviews before appointing
- Request and follow up two references before appointing
- Apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Enhanced Disclosure where appropriate in line with NGB policy
- All current members with direct access to children, young people and vulnerable adults will be required to complete a DBS Enhanced disclosure via the NGB DBS



unit. It is accepted that the NGB aims to prevent people with a history relevant and significant offending from having contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults and prevent them having the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children or young people or vulnerable adults and to minimise the risk of grooming.

- 6 OSCA Foundation supports NGB's Whistle Blowing Policies. Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can whistle blow by contacting the NGB Safeguarding team (see details of RFL below).
- 7 OSCA Foundation requires its Foundation and Anchor Partners to appoint a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) in line with the NGB's role profile. The CWO will take part in training as defined in the NGB's Safeguarding Education and Training Strategy. The CWO is the first point of contact for all club members and parents/carers regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person or vulnerable adult. The CWO will be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns and will play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.
- 8 We acknowledge and endorse NGB's Anti Bullying Policies. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at OSCA Foundation and Anchor Partner activities. If bullying does occur, all players, participants or parents/carers should be able to tell and to know that bullying will be dealt with promptly. Incidents need to be reported to their respective CWO and in the case of serious bullying or adult on child bullying to the NGB Safeguarding Team.
- 9 The Code of Conduct of NGBs for coaches, players, officials, parents/carers, officials and coaches has been implemented by OSCA Foundation. The Foundation and Anchor Partners have fair disciplinary systems and clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct at Foundation Partner level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be applied by Leagues or the NGB in more serious circumstances. All Foundation and Anchor Partners are aware of these codes.
- 10 Comprehensive advice and guidance on Safeguarding matters can be obtained from the following links:
 - **Football Association** <http://www.thefa.com/-/media/files/thefaportal/governance-docs/safeguarding/safeguardingpolicies-and-procedures-2017.ashx>
 - **Rugby League - RFL Safeguarding** <http://media.rugby-league.com/docs/RFL%20Safeguarding%20Policy%202018.pdf>
 - General advice is available at the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/cpsu/cpsu_wda57648.html ● The NSPCC Child Protection 24 hour Helpline 0808 800 5000
 - The respective NGB Safeguarding Teams:
 - RFL on 0844 477 7113 Option 6 or by emailing to safeguarding@rfl.uk.com
 - FA on 0113 282 2358 or by emailing to CountyWO@westridingfa.com