

ALDERNEY SPORTS CLUB SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. As is the case within England and Guernsey, my club in Alderney takes safeguarding within its sport extremely seriously. The Chairman of the club, other officials and coaches are committed to making the game as safe and enjoyable as possible. The club ensures that all who are involved with or overseeing youth sport are appropriately trained and accredited. As a small island, Alderney benefits from a community culture where the mandates of safeguarding are maintained and upheld. This applies to both youth sport and junior appearances in any adult teams.
2. The club and its affiliated bodies adhere to the very clear safeguarding strategies that have been put in place by English and Guernsey sports associations to protect people involved in the game. The policies, procedures and regulations are understood and complied with. All involved in Alderney sport understand the relevance of these applicable to their roles, and the sanctions they face for failing to adhere to them.
3. At the core of Alderney's safeguarding policies is the mandatory appointment of a Club Welfare Officer to lead youth sports, although Alderney does not have a representative youth team in every sport as the numbers are too small. We have a club Child Welfare Officer in place and specified club committee officers have completed the mandatory free online Safeguarding courses and possess certificates to confirm this. Others within the club are also encouraged to complete the course in order to raise awareness of potential situations and how to deal with them.
4. Welfare Officers, and others as appropriate, have a Criminal Record Check That is acceptable to our sport, and which is renewed every three years. This is underpinned by regular approved safeguarding training. Both the club committee and Welfare Officers ensure that appropriate checks and training are completed for anyone working with children and young people under the age of 18.
5. We remind our members of the background material and information available via the Guernsey and English safeguarding in sports websites, on how safeguarding concerns should be reported and investigated appropriately. This includes links to various supporting organisations and reference to the framework for safeguarding within affiliated sports in the UK and Crown Dependencies. The importance of a multilateral and coherent approach to safeguarding within sports is stressed, as is the need to work with statutory agencies on Alderney and if necessary, beyond to investigate and manage any concerns raised.

Alderney Sports Club Safeguarding Principles

Every child or young person who plays or participates in sport should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in sport, and my club FA endorses and adheres to the English and Guernsey Safeguarding Children Policy for our sport.

This means creating a safe and inclusive atmosphere where everyone within Alderney sports works together to tackle both bullying and discrimination, ensure safe recruitment, and remedy poor practice, which potentially leads to harm and reduces equal opportunities.

Within this:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, of paramount consideration.
- All children and young people have the right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, racial origin, faith, ability or disability, or other factors.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; this includes online concerns.
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents and carers is essential.
- All coaches must check the environment that coaching takes place, including pitch/court checks, having the right equipment etc, appropriate to the age group involved, with a First Aid Kit on site.
- A register is taken of all who take part in training sessions.
- Have emergency phone numbers of parents/carers regardless if they stay or not at a session.
- Coaches need to be aware that regardless of whether players are 4 or 70+ , sport is to be enjoyed, but each age group has its own special needs.
- Ideally officials and coaches should have their own whistles, if not these must be washed between uses.

Alderney Safeguarding Procedures

In the event of a complaint or someone raising a concern, in the first instance, this should be sent to the club Chairman and/or Vice Chairman. If this involves a person under 18 it will be referred to our Child Welfare Officer.