

## REPORTING SAFEGUARDING / WELFARE CONCERNS POLICY

### The purpose and scope of this policy statement:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child or young person, it is essential that you report your concerns — **no action is not an option**.

ESF Events acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person attending its events and is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all participants.

Some children, including disabled children and those from ethnic minority communities, may be particularly vulnerable to abuse. ESF Events accepts its responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to safeguard their welfare through partnership working with parents/carers, clubs, National Governing Bodies and statutory agencies.

A child is defined in law as anyone under the age of 18.

### Safeguarding definitions

- **Safeguarding** is about creating safe, positive, enjoyable and inclusive environments that support children's wellbeing. It includes protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health or development, and ensuring that they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- **Abuse** includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse, neglect, bullying, hazing and exploitation.

All teams attending ESF Events must have a nominated **Tour Welfare Contact** present at the festival. This individual must be clearly identified to all team members and listed on the ESF Player Registration Form.

### The procedure

All safeguarding or welfare concerns must be reported **immediately** to a member of the ESF Events organising team.

If the concern relates to **poor practice**, ESF Events will:

- Deal with the matter directly, or
- Seek advice from the **ESF Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

If the concern relates to suspected or actual abuse, the ESF Designated Safeguarding Lead will be contacted immediately and, where appropriate, a referral will be made to the Police or Children's Social Care without delay.

All concerns will be taken seriously and responded to promptly, proportionately and in line with ESF safeguarding procedures.

### **Legal framework**

This policy is informed by and complies with the following legislation and guidance:

- Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025) (principles applied to youth sport settings)
- Relevant National Governing Body Safeguarding Policies and Procedures
- Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) and NSPCC guidance

ESF Events subscribes to the safeguarding requirements of the appropriate National Governing Bodies and is committed to compliance with all relevant legislation, statutory guidance and best-practice recommendations.

### **Supporting documents**

This policy statement should be read alongside ESF Events' safeguarding-related policies and procedures, including:

- Codes of Conduct
- Reporting concerns about the welfare of a child or young person
- Equality (including LGBTQ+)
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Missing / Lost Child Policy
- Online Safety
- Photography
- Safer Recruitment
- Whistleblowing

### **We recognise that**

- ESF Events has a responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm, neglect and bullying.

- Safeguarding responsibilities apply to everyone involved in youth sport, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, including volunteers, match officials, tour helpers, coaches, club officials and medical staff.

### **We will seek to keep children and young people safe by**

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people
- Appointing an ESF Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Adopting safeguarding best practice through policies, procedures and codes of conduct
- Providing appropriate support, supervision and guidance for staff and volunteers
- Ensuring safe recruitment practices and appropriate DBS checks
- Recording, storing and sharing information securely in line with data protection legislation
- Managing concerns and allegations consistently and appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment
- Ensuring effective complaints and whistleblowing procedures are in place

### **Our commitment**

- All clubs attending ESF Events must have an appointed Club Welfare Officer in line with relevant National Governing Body guidance and training requirements.
- Where the Club Welfare Officer is not present at the festival, each team must nominate a Tour Welfare Contact.
- The Welfare Officer or Tour Welfare Contact is the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns within the club and will liaise directly with ESF Events. They play a proactive role in promoting respect, identifying poor practice and responding to concerns about abuse.

### **Bullying**

- ESF Events recognises and endorses the identification of bullying as a form of abuse by National Governing Bodies. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at ESF events and all concerns will be dealt with promptly and appropriately.

### **Reporting concerns during an event**

Any safeguarding or welfare concerns reported to the ESF Events organising team during a festival will be shared with the nominated Tour Welfare Contact for the relevant club, unless doing so would place a child or young person at further risk.

## Contact details

- ESF Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**  
 Name: Dannii Donovan  
 ☎ **07947 313302**  
 ✉ [dannii@esfevents.co.uk](mailto:dannii@esfevents.co.uk)
- ESF Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads**  
 Martyn Young – [martyn@esfevents.co.uk](mailto:martyn@esfevents.co.uk)  
 Lee Donovan – [lee@esfevents.co.uk](mailto:lee@esfevents.co.uk)

## Useful numbers

- Appropriate National Governing Body (FA, SYFA, England Netball, RFU, RFL)
- ESF Events Safeguarding phone line: 07947 313302 (for the duration of the festival)
- Police or Children’s Social Care
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 | text 88858 | [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

## Safeguarding or Welfare concerns about a child or young person?

### Here is what to do.....

