

# **PDcoaching SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

## **Our Commitment**

PDcoaching is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, wellbeing and safety of every child and young person who participates in our coaching sessions, programmes, camps and activities.

We recognise our **duty of care** towards children and young people and are committed to ensuring that our safeguarding practices reflect relevant legislation, statutory guidance, best practice and the safeguarding requirements of **The Football Association (The FA)**.

The **welfare of the child is paramount** and will always be at the centre of our decision-making.

Every child has the right to participate in sport in a **safe, positive, inclusive and child-centred environment**, regardless of their age, ability or disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or socio-economic background.

We recognise that some children may be more vulnerable to abuse, neglect, exploitation or discrimination and will take reasonable and appropriate steps to safeguard and support every child in our care.

## **Our Safeguarding Aims**

PDcoaching aims to ensure that all children and young people:

- Have a positive, enjoyable and safe experience when participating in our activities.
- Are treated with dignity, respect and fairness.
- Feel listened to and confident that they can raise concerns.
- Are protected from abuse, neglect, bullying, exploitation, inappropriate behaviour and other forms of harm.
- Know who they can speak to if something makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or unsafe.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of **everyone involved with PDcoaching**, including coaches, employees, volunteers and anyone acting on behalf of the organisation.

## **What We Will Do**

To meet our safeguarding responsibilities, PDCoaching will:

- **Prioritise children's welfare** — The safety and wellbeing of children and young people will always come before sporting performance or results.
- **Listen to children** — We will value, respect and take seriously the views, concerns and experiences of children and young people.
- **Maintain clear safeguarding procedures** — Appropriate policies and procedures will be in place for identifying, reporting, recording and responding to safeguarding concerns.
- **Follow appropriate codes of conduct** — Coaches, staff and volunteers will be expected to maintain appropriate professional boundaries and behaviour when working with children.
- **Provide safeguarding training** — Relevant staff and volunteers will receive appropriate safeguarding information and training to help them recognise and respond to concerns, disclosures, abuse or neglect.
- **Recruit safely** — Appropriate recruitment procedures and safeguarding checks, including DBS checks where required, will be completed before individuals undertake relevant roles with children.
- **Respond to concerns appropriately** — Any safeguarding allegation, disclosure or concern will be taken seriously and handled promptly in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.
- **Keep appropriate records** — Safeguarding concerns and actions will be recorded accurately and stored securely and confidentially.
- **Protect personal information** — Information will be handled in accordance with applicable UK data protection legislation and our privacy/data protection procedures.
- **Provide appropriate supervision and support** — Coaches, staff and volunteers will receive suitable guidance, supervision and support to help them fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.
- **Promote online safety** — We will take appropriate steps to safeguard children when using social media, photography, video, messaging platforms and other forms of digital communication.
- **Work with parents and carers** — Parents and carers will be provided with clear information about our safeguarding expectations and how they can raise a concern.
- **Work with relevant authorities** — Where necessary, concerns may be referred or information shared with appropriate safeguarding organisations, statutory agencies, The FA, police or children's social care in accordance with safeguarding and legal requirements.

## **Photography, Video & Online Safety**

PDCoaching recognises its responsibility to protect children when photographs, videos and other digital content are created or shared.

Where appropriate consent has been obtained, photographs and videos may be used to celebrate participation, development, achievements and the activities provided by PDCoaching.

We will aim to ensure that content involving children is appropriate and does not place a child at unnecessary risk.

Staff and volunteers must use social media, messaging services, photography and video responsibly and in accordance with PDCoaching's relevant policies and codes of conduct.

Any concerns relating to inappropriate online communication, photography, video or social media activity involving a child should be reported as a safeguarding concern.

### **Reporting a Safeguarding Concern**

Any child, parent, carer, coach, volunteer or other individual who has a safeguarding concern is encouraged to report it as soon as possible.

Concerns should normally be raised with PDCoaching's **Designated Safeguarding Lead**.

You **do not need to be certain that abuse has taken place** before raising a concern. If something does not feel right or you are worried about the welfare of a child, it should be reported so that appropriate action can be considered.

Safeguarding information will only be shared with individuals or organisations who need the information in order to protect a child or fulfil a safeguarding or legal responsibility.

### **Safeguarding Emergencies**

**If a child or young person is in immediate danger or there is an immediate risk of serious harm, call [999](tel:999).**

Where appropriate, safeguarding concerns may also need to be reported to the relevant local authority children's services, police, The FA or another appropriate safeguarding organisation.

PDCoaching will cooperate fully with safeguarding investigations and relevant statutory authorities.

## **Staff & Volunteer Responsibilities**

Everyone representing PDCoaching has a responsibility to:

- Put children's welfare first.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
- Treat children fairly and respectfully.
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour.
- Report safeguarding concerns promptly.
- Never promise complete confidentiality when a child makes a safeguarding disclosure.
- Follow PDCoaching's safeguarding procedures and codes of conduct.

Safeguarding concerns should **never be ignored, dismissed or investigated personally by a coach or volunteer**. They should be reported through the appropriate safeguarding procedure.

## **Confidentiality**

Safeguarding matters will be handled sensitively and confidentially.

However, protecting a child takes priority over keeping information confidential. Where necessary, relevant information may be shared with appropriate professionals, organisations or authorities to protect a child from harm.

Records relating to safeguarding concerns will be securely maintained and access restricted to appropriate individuals.

## **Compliance**

This policy and its associated procedures apply to **all coaches, employees, volunteers and other individuals acting on behalf of PDCoaching**.

Everyone involved with PDCoaching is expected to understand and follow these safeguarding requirements.

Failure to comply with this policy, our safeguarding procedures or relevant codes of conduct will be taken seriously and may result in appropriate action, including suspension, dismissal or exclusion from PDCoaching activities.

## **Monitoring & Review**

PDCoaching will keep its safeguarding arrangements under review to ensure they remain appropriate, effective and compliant with relevant requirements.

This policy will be formally reviewed at least every **three years**, and sooner where necessary, including following:

- Changes to legislation or statutory safeguarding guidance.
- Changes to The FA or relevant sporting body safeguarding requirements.
- Changes to local safeguarding arrangements.
- A significant safeguarding incident or concern.
- Changes to the structure or activities of PDCoaching.
- Identification of improvements required within our safeguarding procedures.

Where significant changes are required, the policy will be updated and communicated to relevant staff, volunteers, parents and carers.

## **Useful Safeguarding Support**

Further safeguarding guidance and resources are available from the **NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)**.

The CPSU provides information for sports organisations, coaches, parents and volunteers on creating safe sporting environments for children and young people.

### **Contact details**

#### **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Name: Paul Downing  
Tel: 07341375205  
Email: [pdcoaching\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:pdcoaching_@hotmail.com)

#### **Deputy Safeguarding Lead**

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