



**Premier  
League**

## **Safeguarding Strategy**





## Introduction

The Premier League is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk (together referred to as “vulnerable groups”). Promoting and protecting the safety and welfare of vulnerable groups is extremely important to us; we believe that everyone has the right to enjoy football in a safe and inclusive environment.

This document sets out our vision, core principles and strategic approach to safeguarding.

## Vision

To offer an enjoyable experience and create inclusive and welcoming environments where vulnerable groups are safe, valued and respected. We will do this through:

1. Leadership and Commitment
2. Strong Governance
3. Prevention
4. Protection; and
5. Empowerment and Education

## Strategic objectives and how we will achieve these

### Leadership and Commitment

Core principle: While the Board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that effective safeguarding policies and processes are in place, safeguarding should be considered by everyone.

Strategic objective: Embed a culture of safeguarding across the Premier League.

To achieve this, we will work to ensure that:

- Safeguarding is considered throughout our values and priorities;
- The Board champions safeguarding and contributes to raising safeguarding awareness and communicating policies and procedures;
- There are staff with dedicated operational responsibility for safeguarding; and
- Safeguarding policies, rules and any proposed improvements are discussed and endorsed at Board level.



## **Governance**

Core principle: Robust and transparent governance arrangements for safeguarding are essential.

Strategic objective: Establish a strong governance framework to support our safeguarding arrangements.

To achieve this, we will work to ensure that:

- Premier League Board members and Boards of Clubs are clear about their responsibilities;
- Our regulatory framework is consistent with legislation, government guidance, and good practice;
- We implement effective measures to monitor Club compliance with our regulatory framework;
- We take appropriate action when our safeguarding policies and rules have been breached; and
- We regularly assess whether our safeguarding policies, procedures and rules are effective in practice or if improvement is required.

## **Prevention**

Core principle: Prevention is the primary aim of our safeguarding arrangements.

Strategic objective: Take all reasonable steps to create an environment where it is as difficult as possible for any form of abuse, exploitation or mistreatment of vulnerable groups to take place.

To achieve this, we will work to ensure that:

- We implement effective safer recruitment procedures to assess the suitability of any person employed or deployed to work with or on behalf of vulnerable groups;
- We implement effective safeguarding policies and procedures that apply to everyone involved with the Premier League, and in particular those in positions of trust and influence;
- Safeguarding is a key consideration during the planning, delivery and review of all our activities involving vulnerable groups;
- We actively promote safeguarding in all of our partnership work where vulnerable groups are involved;
- We carefully assess and mitigate risk; both to vulnerable groups and to the Premier League; and
- We work with Clubs to help them meet our safeguarding requirements by providing support, guidance and education.



## Protection

Core principle: Having a clear and effective process for dealing with safeguarding concerns, and working together with statutory and football authorities, enhances our ability to protect vulnerable groups.

Strategic objective: Promote and protect the safety and welfare of vulnerable groups wherever possible and continuously work with our key stakeholders to strengthen our safeguarding arrangements and to share good practice across the game.

To achieve this, we will work to ensure that:

- We take all safeguarding incidents, allegations and concerns seriously and ensure that they are dealt with swiftly and appropriately;
- We implement effective procedures for managing safeguarding concerns and allegations;
- There is a supportive internal response to referrals of safeguarding incidents, allegations, concerns, complaints and whistleblowing;
- There is a multidisciplinary approach to promoting and protecting the safety, welfare and well-being of vulnerable groups; and
- Information is shared where necessary to protect the safety and welfare of vulnerable groups.

## Empowerment and Education

Core principle: We believe that if our staff and any vulnerable groups which place their trust in us are empowered to recognise and report abuse, we will be in a stronger position to prevent, and protect.

Strategic objective: We are committed to raising safeguarding awareness and empowering everyone we engage with to identify and report concerns.

To achieve this, we will work to ensure that:

- Safeguarding procedures, individual responsibilities and details on how to seek support or raise concerns are widely promoted to everyone involved with the Premier League;
- We develop a workforce who are empowered to: create safe environments, recognise safeguarding concerns and risks, and to take appropriate action when an issue arises;
- Those employed or deployed to work with or on behalf of vulnerable groups receive regular safeguarding education;
- We empower vulnerable groups by helping them understand their rights to protection from abuse, exploitation and mistreatment, and where they can get help or advice if they need it; and
- We create a culture that gives vulnerable groups a voice and takes account of their rights and wishes in decision making.

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**Date:** 17 April 2018

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