**Youth Referee Safeguarding Policy**

St Ives Town FC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in St Ives Town FC from harm. Youth referees fall under the Safeguarding policy set out by the FA. In this document youth referees will be referred to as children, vulnerable adults or referees.

St Ives Town FC confirms that it adheres to The FA’s Safeguarding Policy and the procedures, practices and guidelines and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document and any successor policy.

A child is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any football activity.

A vulnerable adult is a person over the age of 18 who has a disability whether that is physical, mental or the combination of both.

The Key Principles of the St Ives Town FC Youth Referee Safeguarding Policy are that:

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations:

All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language or sexual identity have the right to protection from harm.

All allegations or suspicions of harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.

Everyone will work in partnership to promote the welfare, health and development of children and vulnerable adults

Children and vulnerable adults have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited and vetted person and managed in relation to their participation in football, whether they are playing, volunteering or officiating in the community or professional areas of the sport.

St Ives Town FC recognises that all children and vulnerable adults have the right to participate in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from harm. St Ives Town FC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity.

St Ives Town FC will uphold and promote the FA Codes of Conduct and will ensure as far as it is able that spectators, parents, members and officials are all aware of and adhere to the FA Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators, players and Officials as appropriate.

The Welfare Officer/ Assistant Welfare Officer or Club secretary is the point of contact. If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult has been put at risk you must, in the first instance, inform the Club Welfare Officer.

All members of St Ives Town FC who work with children or vulnerable adults in Regulated Activity must undertake an FA Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

St Ives Town FC recognise that they are providing a service that can involve children or vulnerable adults and that all adults working with children whether in a voluntary capacity or otherwise should:

understand the responsibilities which are part of their role, and be aware that consequences will result if these provisions are breached;

always act, and be seen to act, in the child or vulnerable adult’s best interests;

avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions; and take responsibility for their own actions and behaviour.

**Communicating responsibly with young Match Officials U18**

Many young people play a significant role as match officials, their role could create additional vulnerability if we do not ensure communications and interactions with adults are carried out appropriately both on and off the field and in the online environment.

They are likely to need to communicate frequently with other colleagues and the St Ives Town FC recognises that the use of social networking sites, forums and message boards may form an integral part of these communications and may be beneficial to their development within Football. Making effective use of these mediums is a positive step as long as it’s done appropriately.

It’s important that we recognise they are not ‘adults’ and as such we have a responsibility to safeguard them as we do any other young person involved in football. Following this guidance will put in place helpful safeguards.

Read the FAs guidance and St Ives Town fc social media and communication and make sure that it is applied.

St Ives Town FC will ensure that all its members will comply with the Best Practice Guidance issued by the FA. In summary, the following are NOT acceptable and will be treated seriously by the Club and may result in disciplinary action being taken by St Ives Town FC:

1. This will include no shouting or verbal abuse directed at the referee

2. No physical abuse or threatening behaviour towards a referee

3. Accepting of the decisions taken by the referee as the sole arbiter of the game.

4. Ensure that there is one person within each team set up who is responsible for the referee, as a support mechanism

5. Treat the referee with RESPECT, as you would want to be treated

6. Working alone with a child or vulnerable adult.

7. Humiliating children or vulnerable adults.

8. Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult.

9. Adults participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with children or vulnerable adult’s.

10. Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or vulnerable adult, developed as a result of being in a ‘position of trust.’

11. Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material.

St Ives Town FC will provide suitable match official changing facilities. St Ives Town FC will ensure that all its officials are aware that adults must not change at the same time, using the same facilities as children or vulnerable adults.

Welfare Officer for St Ives Town FC

Marina Howlett - 07951760481 or email sitfcsecretary@aol.com

Assistant Welfare Officer

Dave Hook - 07960256749 or email hooklevi@aol.com

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