



LARKHALL ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB WHISTLE-BLOWING POLICY

Whistle-blowing in a safeguarding context means revealing and raising concerns over misconduct, poor practice or malpractice within an organisation, or within an independent structure associated with it.

It can be used as an early-warning system or when it's recognised that appropriate actions have not been taken. This approach or policy is adopted in many different walks of life.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague's conduct towards a child or young person can also use whistle-blowing by emailing: Safeguarding@TheFA.com

WITHIN FOOTBALL POOR PRACTICE IS DEFINED AS:

- When insufficient care is taken to avoid injuries (e.g. by excessive training or inappropriate training for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players);
- Allowing abusive or concerning practices to go unreported (e.g. a coach who ridicules and criticizes players who make a mistake during a match);
- Allowing hazing practices to go unreported;
- Placing children or young people in potentially compromising and uncomfortable situations with adults (e.g. inappropriate use by a coach of social media with a young player(s));
- Ignoring health and safety guidelines (e.g. allowing young players to set up goal posts unsupervised by adults);
- Failing to adhere to the club's codes of practice (e.g. openly verbally abusing the referee);
- Giving continued and unnecessary preferential treatment to individuals.

Please note – this list is not exhaustive.

Incidents of poor practice occur when the needs of children and young people are not afforded the necessary priority, so their welfare is compromised.

If you are worried about a child, it's vital you report your concerns. Doing nothing is not an option.

It's also important you stay calm, and if any child is present, reassure them they are not to blame. But don't make promises of confidentiality or outcome.

There are five ways to report a concern:

- To your Club Welfare Officer or league Designated Safeguarding Officer – please find out from your club who these people are;
- To your County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer. Click **here** for a list of County FA contacts.
- By emailing The FA Case Management Safeguarding Team at **Safeguarding@TheFA.com**;
- If urgent and you cannot contact your club, league or County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer, you should call the NSPCC 24 hour helpline on **0808 800 5000**;
- If it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk, then call the Police or Children's Social Care in your area.