

Falkland Cricket Club – Safeguarding Policy

(reviewed by the Falkland Cricket Club Trustees, March 2024)

Falkland Cricket Club (the club) is committed to ensuring all children (i.e all persons under the age of 18) and vulnerable adults participating in cricket have a positive, fun and safe experience.

We will do this by:

- Recognising that all who participate in cricket at the club (regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have the right to have fun in a safe and inclusive environment, and be protected from harm.
- Ensuring that responsibility for safeguarding is ultimately that of the FCC Trustees, who will support the development of systems for regularly monitoring and assessing performance, guiding continuous improvement in relation to safeguarding at the club.
- Ensuring that, from Trustees to occasional volunteers, there is strong organisational commitment to safeguarding, which is clearly reflected in the culture, policies, working practices, attitudes, and behaviours of those who represent the club.
- Providing an environment where the views of children, parents and volunteers are sought and welcomed on a range of issues, creating a culture where people feel at ease voicing concerns about possible poor practice and/or safeguarding issues, as well as feeling able to contribute to improvements.
- Ensuring all individuals working within cricket at, or for, the club are provided with support, education and timely training, so they are aware of, and can adhere to, good practice, club Codes of Conduct, and their responsibilities in helping to provide a welcoming, safe, and fun experience for all.
- Adopting, implementing and embracing the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB's) "Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children" and related systems and procedures
- Ensuring all people who work in cricket at, or for, the club (coaches, captains, team managers, umpires, volunteers etc) understand how the "Safe Hands Policy" applies to them
- Appointing a Club Safeguarding Officer, who reports to the Trustees, and ensuring they are trained in "Safe Hands" procedures, and other related training modules required by the ECB,
- Ensuring all individuals (paid or voluntary) working within cricket at, or for, the club are recruited and appointed in accordance with ECB best-practice guidelines and relevant legislation
- Ensuring the name and contact details of the Club Safeguarding Officer(s) is obvious and available:
 - As the first point of contact for parents, children and volunteers/staff within the club
 - As a local source of procedural advice for the club, its committee and members
 - As the main point of contact within the club for the County Safeguarding Officer and the ECB Safeguarding Team, and
 - As the main point of contact within the club for relevant external agencies in connection with child safeguarding
- Ensuring correct and comprehensive reporting procedures exist for raising and managing child safeguarding concerns.
- Ensuring all suspicions, concerns and allegations are heard, taken seriously, and dealt with by trained persons using appropriate procedures in a measured and timely manner.
- Enabling contact with the County Safeguarding Officer, should some prefer not to go through the Club Safeguarding Officer, for whatever reason.
- Ensuring access to confidential information relating to child safeguarding matters is restricted to those who need to know in order to safeguard children – including the Club Safeguarding Officer and the appropriate external authorities as specified within ECB child safeguarding procedures.
- Providing public access to all current FCC safeguarding policy documents, a link to which can be found on the Junior sections of the Falkland Cricket Club website.

We will measure the success of this Safeguarding Policy Statement by:

- Canvassing the membership of the club (particularly children) to get a broad outlook on the success or otherwise of the policy – do children feel safe and are parents confident and reassured by club activities?
- Considering the above, to review this policy formally at Trustee level every three years, unless significant legislative change, or structural change at the club, requires this to be done sooner.
- Reviewing/renewing the scope and content of *specific* Safeguarding policies at Trustee level every three years, also ensuring that these policies are easily available and accessible to all.
- Evaluating policy implementation, alongside key measures within it, through the Cricket Committee at a six-month interval, in line with Sport England best practice.

Safeguarding at Falkland - Some key questions

Why a safeguarding policy?

The FCC Safeguarding Policy provides a structure applied to safeguarding, and asks that it is given sufficient attention at ALL levels at the club. The operating of it goes some way to ensuring children and vulnerable adults feel safe and secure while in the club environment – and also allows for recognition that improvement is always necessary and constant.

Who is responsible for safeguarding at the club?

Having a policy is just a means to an end, where the end is that everybody (but particularly children and vulnerable adults) are helped to feel safe, happy and secure at FCC. The Trustees of the club are responsible for ensuring that the policies are fit-for-purpose and that resources are made available to allow these policies to be applied. Club Safeguarding Officers will ensure that the Trustees are aware of appropriate issues arising, and that the policy is properly implemented and regularly reviewed. Coaches, managers and volunteers will operate the policy on a day-to-day basis. ALL adults around the club have a responsibility to be positive role models for our children, and to help ensure these children feel happy and safe while at the club. ALL adults around the club should be made to feel comfortable in reporting anything that they feel is either not right or could be improved upon to help our children feel happy and safe while at the club.

What is 'Safe Hands'?

'Safe Hands' is the ECB's formal process for the management of Safeguarding at cricket clubs. It helps clubs and counties to resource safeguarding appropriately, and provides structure, policies and information for the management of safeguarding. It is the first port of call for Safeguarding Officers, coaches, managers or parents who might wish to know more. Search 'ECB Safe Hands' for more information.

Where do I find the key FCC Safeguarding contacts and policy information?

Contact details for the club Safeguarding Officers, as well as all the key club safeguarding policies, can be found on both the Junior Boys and Junior Girls sections of the Falkland Cricket Club website. For further details you can also search for 'ECB Safe Hands' or see the safeguarding section of the Berkshire Cricket Foundation website.

How do I get help?

The role of the club Safeguarding officers is to support you, make sure you have access to good advice, and ensure that proper and diligent process takes place where necessary. Their contact details can be found on the Junior Boys and Junior Girls sections of the club website. Feel free to contact them!

What if I feel like the club is unsupportive and/or at fault?

The safeguarding team at either the Berkshire Cricket Foundation or the ECB can be contacted if you feel it inappropriate to go via anyone at Falkland Cricket Club, or feel unsupported by the club. Contact details can be found by searching 'Safeguarding Berkshire Cricket' or 'Safeguarding ECB'.

Safeguarding at Falkland – Things that volunteers should ‘Do’

Do always ensure that...

- You have read and understood the FCC Safeguarding Policy and these associated pages, and know how and when to ask for help if necessary. Keep the documents somewhere safe where you can refer back to them if necessary.
- Your actions, attitudes and language are seen as positive and encouraging by a child.
- You listen to the children and any concerns they may have, however seemingly implausible.
- Any questions you ask following concerns raised are ‘open’ and elicit more information, ensuring your questions will not influence an answer.
- Any conversations you have that you need to report further are recorded (a prompt email from you to a Safeguarding Officer is best) – date of conversation, name(s) of child(ren) if involved, child’s account (if a child is involved), your concerns, names of anybody else who is involved or who knows about the conversation
- You don’t approach anybody against whom allegations have been made, as investigations shouldn’t be undertaken by you as an individual – report the matter to a Safeguarding Officer.
- When having any one-to-one conversation with a child (U18) you are in an open place – it is ok to move to somewhere quiet but ensure you can be seen by other adults
- You *never* promise to keep a secret of anything that a child may tell you – be certain to tell them that anything they say might need to be referred to other appropriate adults, in their own best interest
- You ask a child if it is ok before you touch them – as a cricket coach it is often very useful to be able to appropriately touch a child, to demonstrate an action or movement for example, but let them know why and ask their permission (and always ensure you can be seen by other adults).
- You inform a club Safeguarding Officer of anything that you believe to be potentially wrong or inappropriate in terms of helping to keep children safe and happy, either as a result of club activities or anything that may happen outside the club that affects them while at the club
- Any correspondence you have with a child (U18) (eg via What’s App groups or email) is *only* made if the parent is also copied in to the conversation, or is in the group, and has previously given permission to include the child in the correspondence
- All adults at practises or matches are aware that any photos or videos they take that may contain other children are for their own use only and should not be published on social media