

# Salford Storm Football Club

Safeguarding Children At Salford Storm Football Club our prime responsibility is the welfare of the children in our care; we are committed to the protection and safety of the children. This policy is aimed to equip coaches and staff working at Salford Storm Football Club with good knowledge and understanding of our safeguarding procedures and systems, enabling them to create and maintain a safe learning environment for children, mums, dads, carers and colleagues.



It is the club's responsibility to work in partnership with other organisations where appropriate to identify any concerns about child welfare and take action to address them.

## Principles

- The club is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which children are protected from abuse and harm. It is our responsibility to take all reasonable steps to safeguard and protect the rights, health and well-being of all children who are in our care
- We welcome mums, dads and carers' input for our policies, as well as offering access to our safeguarding policy on our website.
- The club will ensure that the welfare of the children is paramount and activities will be well planned and thought through for the children's safety
- All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection
- All coaches and staff have a responsibility to act upon any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest that a child is at harm.

## Aims

- We provide training opportunities for all coaches and staff involved in the club to ensure that they can recognise the signs and signals of possible physical

abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect and that they are aware of how to report this to the club's welfare officer.

- We ensure that all coaches and staff have receipt of the procedures for reporting and recording their concerns at the club, and are confident to raise concerns about professional conduct.
- To create and maintain a safe environment where all children and adults feel safe, secure and valued and know they will be listened to and taken seriously
- To ensure that safeguarding is embedded into everyday practice and procedures, which in turn shows our commitment
- To offer an environment that promotes the views of children where ideas are discussed, and allow children to have a voice in their training sessions and activities.
- We endeavour to give children a positive self-image including their emotional health and well-being as well as having empathy for others

## **Types of abuse and particular procedures followed**

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by harming them or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused within a family, institution or community setting by those known to them or a stranger. This could be an adult or adults, another child or children.

The signs and indicators listed below may not necessarily indicate that a child has been abused but will help us to recognise that something may be wrong, especially if a child shows a number of these symptoms or any of them to a marked degree.

Indicators of abuse

- Failure to thrive and meet developmental milestones
- Fearful or withdrawn tendencies • Unexplained injuries to a child or conflicting reports from parents or staff
- Repeated injuries

- Unaddressed illnesses or injuries
- Significant changes to behaviour patterns.

## **Softer signs of abuse as defined by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) include:**

- Low self-esteem
- Wetting and soiling
- Recurrent nightmares
- Aggressive behaviour
- Withdrawing communication
- Habitual body rocking
- Indiscriminate contact or affection seeking
- Over-friendliness towards strangers
- Excessive clinginess
- Persistently seeking attention.

## **What are the Types of Abuse?**

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect Peer-on-peer abuse We are aware that peer-on-peer abuse does take place, so we include children in our policies when we talk about potential abusers. We will report this in the same way as we do for adults abusing children and will take advice from the appropriate bodies in this area. This may take the form of:
  - Bullying, physically hurting another child, emotional abuse, or sexual abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of or deliberately induces illness in a child.

**Fabricated illness** This is also a type of physical abuse. This is where a child is presented with an illness that is fabricated by the adult carer. The carer may seek out unnecessary medical treatment or investigation. The signs may include a carer exaggerating a real illness or symptoms, complete fabrication of symptoms or inducing physical illness, e.g. through poisoning, starvation, or inappropriate diet. This may also be presented through false allegations of abuse or encouraging the child to appear disabled or ill to obtain unnecessary treatment or specialist support.

**Breast Ironing** Breast ironing also known as "breast flattening" is the process where young girls' breasts are ironed, massaged and/or pounded down through the use of hard or heated objects in order for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts entirely. It is believed that by carrying out this act, young girls will be protected from harassment, rape, abduction and early forced marriage. We will ensure any signs of this in young adults or older children are followed up using the usual safeguarding referral process.

**FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)** This type of physical abuse is practised as a cultural ritual by certain ethnic groups and there is now more awareness of its prevalence in some communities in England including its effect on the child and any other siblings involved. This procedure may be carried out shortly after birth and during childhood as well as adolescence, just before marriage or during a woman's first pregnancy and varies widely according to the community. Symptoms may include bleeding, painful areas, acute urinary retention, urinary infection, wound infection, septicaemia, incontinence, vaginal and pelvic infections with depression and post-traumatic stress disorder as

well as physiological concerns. If you have concerns about a child relating to this area, you should contact the welfare officer as a matter of urgency, in the same way as other types of physical abuse.

There is a mandatory duty to report to police any case where an act of female genital mutilation appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18; we will ensure this is followed at our club.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age-developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually

inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the Internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) Working Together to Safeguard Children defines CSE as "...a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology." We will be aware of the possibility of CSE and the signs and symptoms this may manifest. If we have concerns we will follow the same procedures as for other concerns and we will record and refer as appropriate.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment:
- to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger:
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

All coaches , staff and Volunteers has a duty to report any concerns about the welfare and safety of a child. The concerns will be taken seriously and it is the duty of all to:

- Speak to the Designated Officer or the person who acts in their absence
- Discuss what action is being taken • Record the concern using the settings safeguarding recording system
  - Be clear and accurate with information being shared
  - Listen to the child, offer reassurance and give assurance that she or he will take action
  - Not question the child.

The form is to be viewed as an objective record of the observation or disclosure that includes:

- The name of the person to whom identified or the concern was reported too • The date and time of the observation or the disclosure
- Factual record of the concern
- The exact words spoken by the child as far as possible
- The names of any other person present at the time..
- We make it clear to parents our role and responsibilities in relation to child protection, such as for the reporting of concerns, providing information.
- In most cases parents and carers will be informed when concerns are raised about the safety and welfare of their child. Parents and carers should be given the opportunity to address any concerns raised
- We will continue to welcome the child and the family whilst investigations are being made in relation to any alleged abuse

- Parents must notify the setting regarding any concerns they may have about their child and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be recorded. We will involve parents and carers wherever possible and ensure they have an understanding of the safeguarding and complaints procedure

Everyone is expected to set and maintain the highest standards for their own performance, to work as part of a team and to be an excellent role model for our children.

All coaches and staff will adhere to the code of conduct which outlines the expectations in regard to children, parents and carers and interactions within the team.

In our club we adhere to the following code of conduct rules: • Place the safety and welfare of children above all other consideration

- Treat all members of the club, including children, parents and colleagues with consideration and respect
- Adhere to the principles and procedures contained in safeguarding and child protection policy
- Treat each child as an individual and make adjustments to meet their individual needs
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of and commitment to non-discriminatory practice
- Recognise the power balances between children and adults, and different levels of seniority of staff and ensure that power and authority are never misused
- Understand the club staff are in a position of trust
- Be alert to, and report appropriately, any behaviour that may indicate that a child is at risk of harm
- Encourage all children to reach their full potential

- Never condone inappropriate behaviour by children or staff
- Report and challenge abusive adult activities, such as ridicule or bullying
- Share concerns about inappropriate adult behaviour with the Designated Officer
  - Refrain from any action that would bring the club in disrepute
- Value themselves and seek appropriate support for any issue that may have an adverse effect on their professional practice.

**Coaches and staff must not:**

- Play inappropriate physical contact games with children
- Engage inappropriate verbal banter
- Make suggestive remarks or gestures or tell jokes of a sexual nature

**Fostering a Safe Environment**

- We create within the club a culture of value and respect for the individual, having positive regard for children's heritage arising from their colour, ethnicity, languages spoken at home, cultural and social background
- We promote children to communicate their thoughts, feelings and concerns
- We introduce key elements of keeping children safe into our programme to promote the personal, social and emotional development of all children, so that they may grow to be strong, resilient and listened to and that they develop an understanding of why and how to keep safe Staff Suitability The club has robust procedures to ensure all adult members are suitable to work with children and follow the guidance within the Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (2018).

Salford Storm FC Safeguarding officer contact details:

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**Next Review: November 2025**

**Signed:**

*L. Loghan Knox*