



Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy

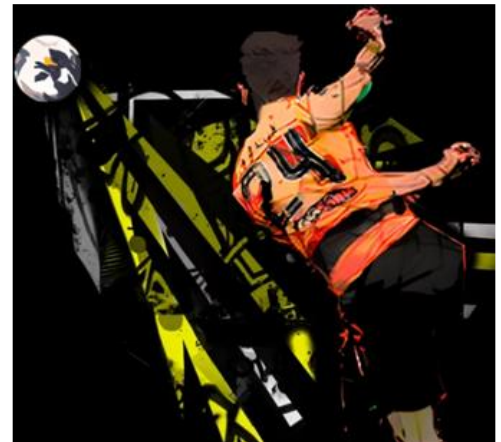
Alloa Athletic Football Club is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment in which children's rights are championed by everybody.

Our Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy underpins this commitment by

- Promoting the physical and mental wellbeing of children
- Protecting children from abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Ensuring children have equal access to football programmes and opportunities and
- Providing staff and volunteer training to help recognise, identify and respond to safeguarding concerns.

We promote our safeguarding culture through communication and regular policy updates based on feedback from within the club, new legislation and government guidance.

The protection and wellbeing of all children and young people enjoying football at our club will be a priority for everyone working, volunteering or participating in the sport. Our aim is to foster a culture where children can learn, develop their skills, and reach their full potential free of discrimination, abuse and exploitation.



A summary of our policy is shown below. For a full version, please refer to our website.

Martin Ross

Chairman

1st July 2026

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

Bill Anderson

bill.anderson1943@talktalk.net

07496311156



OUR POLICY

ALLOA ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB will ensure that every child who takes part in football, in any capacity, can participate in an enjoyable and safe environment, which promotes inclusion and protects them from harm, poor practice, exploitation, bullying or abuse.

We all take responsibility to create a culture of safety and wellbeing, a culture that is based on the fundamental rights of children as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and in the Scottish Government's Getting It Right for Every Child policy (GIRFEC).

FOUR VALUES shape and guide how we communicate our policy and engage with children and young people involved in club activities.

ACCOUNTABLE

We accept responsibility and take ownership of the wellbeing and protection of children in our game. Our collective leadership calls upon integrity, consistency and confidence in our everyday behaviours.

INCLUSIVE

Football is for everyone, irrespective of background. We celebrate what makes us unique and embrace our differences. We create a culture where rights are respected and everyone is treated fairly, with dignity and respect.

OUR VALUES

APPROACHABLE

We are visible, accessible, open and caring. We build respectful and supportive relationships, listening to children's voices, and championing their views in everything we do.

EMPOWERING

We are forward facing and strive to be the best for children and young people. We are brave, challenging ourselves and others to continually strive for the best outcomes for children and young people. We encourage and support children and young people to express their views.

BY LIVING THESE VALUES – Inclusive, Empowering, Approachable and Accountable – We aim to create a positive football environment, encourage exemplary behaviour and implement practices that make football a safe, fun, and positive experience for all children and young people participating in the game.

Core Principles

- ☛ We always act in the best interests of children and young people.
- ☛ Protection and Wellbeing of all children in our care is everyone's responsibility.
- ☛ A Child or Young Person's rights, wishes and feelings should be respected and promoted whatever their

age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity

AND

they have the right to protection from all forms of harm, abuse and exploitation.

- ☛ See the Child or Young person before the player, coach, volunteer, spectator or referee.
- ☛ Children and Young People have the right to express views on matters that affect them, should they wish to do so, and to have those views considered.
- ☛ The Right to Play, Join and Enjoy a wide range of sporting activities.
- ☛ Promote the Wellbeing, Health and Development of a child or young person by working in partnership with each other, the child or young person, their parents/carers and other relevant organisations.



Risks to Children's Wellbeing

The protection and wellbeing of all children and young people is a priority for everyone working, volunteering or participating in club activities. Everyone at the club needs to be aware of potential risks such as exposure to poor practice or abusive behaviour and knows the actions to be taken to prevent, minimise and respond in line with our policy.

The responsibility to safeguard, promote, support and protect a child or young person's wellbeing does not rest on one person.

We are *all* responsible.

..... to understand the risks, know our processes and be able to apply our policy and safeguards including raising concerns if a risk is identified

Our **Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy** combined with relevant training, mentoring and support gives us the safeguards, confidence and support needed to keep children and young people safe in football. Our Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer (CWPO) has specific responsibilities to help manage these safeguards and will provide help, support and advice in confidence at any time.

CONTACT

No matter your role or involvement in the club, *you* have a responsibility to safeguard, promote, support and protect the wellbeing of all children and young people involved in Scottish football.

If you have any concerns about the wellbeing of a child or young person or about the conduct of any adult then you must report the matter to the Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer (CWPO)

Bill Anderson on 07496311156
or
bill.anderson1943@talktalk.net

Full information on how to record and report a concern can be found in the **Responding to Concerns Procedure** within our Child Welfare and Protection Policy

If you think a child or young person's wellbeing is at risk

you can raise your concerns with our CWPO or any board member in complete confidence.

Our reporting process is set out in Responding to Concerns Procedure within our policy documents

AND our Child Welfare and Protection Officer will respond to any concern raised in line with these procedures

Football contributes in many ways to a child or young person's positive wellbeing - being active, gaining new skills, being included and respected as part of a team. By understanding their circumstances and responding appropriately to any concern ensures we are providing all round support to their wellbeing.