



Whistle Blowing Policy

Safeguarding children and adults at risk requires everyone to be committed to the highest possible standards of openness, integrity, and accountability. As a Club, we are committed to encouraging and maintaining a culture where people feel able to raise a genuine safeguarding concern and are confident that it will be taken seriously.

What is whistle blowing?

In the context of safeguarding, “whistle blowing” is when someone raises a concern about the well-being of a child or an adult at risk.

A whistle blower may be:

- A player
- A volunteer
- A coach
- An official
- A parent, guardian, or carer
- A club member
- A member of the public.

How to raise a concern about a child or an adult at risk at the club

If a child or an adult at risk is in immediate danger or risk of harm, the police should be contacted by calling 999 or alternatively 101 to report a less serious risk.

Where a child or an adult at risk is not in immediate danger, any concerns about their well-being should be made without delay to the Club Welfare Officer (*Dawn Ellis* - welfarebraidtc@gmail.com). The Club Welfare Officer will pass the details of the concern on to the LTA Safeguarding Team at the earliest opportunity and the relevant local authority and the police will be contacted, where appropriate.

If, however, the whistle blower does not feel comfortable raising a concern with the Club Welfare Officer, the whistle blower should contact the LTA Safeguarding Team directly on 020 8487 7000, Social Care Direct (0131 200 2324) or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

Information to include when raising a concern

The whistle blower should provide as much information as possible regarding the incident or circumstance which has given rise to the concern, including:

- their name and contact details (unless they wish to remain anonymous)
- names of individuals involved
- date, time, and location of incident/circumstance and
- whether any witnesses were present.

What happens next?

All concerns raised by a whistle blower about the well-being of a child or an adult at risk will be taken seriously and every effort will be made to deal with each concern fairly, quickly, and proportionately.

If the whistle blower does not believe that the concern has been dealt with appropriately and wishes to speak to someone outside the club or the LTA Safeguarding Team, the NSPCC Whistleblowing advice line should be contacted on 0800 028 0285 or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk.

Support

The Club will not tolerate any harassment, victimisation, or unfair treatment of, and will take appropriate action to protect, whistle blowers when they raise a concern in good faith.

This Policy is reviewed every three years (or earlier if there is a change in national legislation).

Club President - **Eugene Creally** (e.creally@virgin.net) Date: 27 January 2022

Club Welfare Officer – **Dawn Ellis** (welfarebraidtc@gmail.com) Date: 27 January 2022