

Foreword to the Child Protection Policy

Children only get one childhood. That's why it's up to all of us to make sure that when they participate in football, they feel completely safe, completely supported, and above all, have fun.

The incredible impact you make as a **SYFA** volunteer, coach, official or staff member remains with these young players for a lifetime. Memories of wins and trophies can fade, but players will remember what you said, how you said it and most importantly how you treated them.

You aren't just running drills; you are creating memories that they will carry into adulthood, hopefully sparking a lifelong love for the beautiful game. Please be a good role model first and foremost!

Here at **SYFA**, we are profoundly grateful for everything you do. The fantastic coaching and wonderful opportunities you provide for children and young people are invaluable. You are helping to grow the sport, but more importantly, you are uplifting the health and happiness of the next generation.

Of course, we know that growing up today isn't always easy. Many children face significant and complex challenges, and they look to us for safety. That's why we want to stand right beside you. We are dedicated to providing you with the support, tools, and guidance you need to navigate those tricky or daunting situations with confidence.

We've teamed up with partners across the football family to create a practical toolkit just for you. We hope it helps guide your decisions, clarifies any confusing procedures, and helps your club shine even brighter.

None of this is easy, and you don't have to do it alone. Please take your time to review these resources and remember—we are always just a phone call or an email away if you have any questions.

Football is an incredible game that connects us all. Whether you are a volunteer or a professional coach, we share the same heartbeat: a determination to make football the best possible experience for our youth. At SYFA, we know we can't achieve this dream without you. We are a team, and we want to support you every step of the way.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do. Let's continue working hand in hand to build a brighter, safer future for our children.



SYFA Chairman



SYFA Head of Operations