



Sedlescombe Rangers FC
Oaklands Park
Sedlescombe
East Sussex
TN33 0UF

Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club

Safeguarding Statement – December 2016

In light of the recent coverage of historical allegations of child sexual abuse within football, Sedlescombe Rangers Football Club is issuing the following statement:

Sedlescombe Rangers FC believes that individuals who engage with children and young people have a duty to safeguard and promote their welfare. The club is committed to making football a safe, positive and enjoyable experience for all children and young people who play for and at the club. This includes those who support, coach, referee and assist on match days, at training and when involved in other club activities such as the annual club tournament.

The following information is aimed at providing parents, carers and players with knowledge about safeguarding within the club.

Sedlescombe Rangers FC operates a safeguarding policy in keeping with The Football Association's (FA) strategy for safeguarding children - namely that every affiliated club and league with youth teams must have in place a Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures.

This requires those working in eligible roles with children and young people to undertake a criminal records check. Eligibility means anyone aged 16 years or over who undertakes any unsupervised roles with children and young people under the age of 18. Activities which require a criminal record check include managing, training, coaching and supervising children or driving a vehicle solely for children on behalf of a club or organisation. In youth football anyone undertaking these activities including all coaches and managers **MUST** obtain a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Enhanced Criminal Record Check.

These checks are usually undertaken electronically and an individual's identity and role in the club is verified by the designated Club Welfare Officer before being processed by the FA's affiliated criminal records check organisation. Where the check highlights relevant information, this is investigated further and a risk assessment is carried out to establish whether or not the individual will be accepted to work with children and young people in football.

The FA's online safeguarding service enables Club Welfare Officers to track and manage club members who are required to undertake a check and attend safeguarding children training and helps to ensure that they renew their criminal records check every 3 years.

In addition to an enhanced criminal record check coaches, managers and Club Welfare Officers are required to attend a Safeguarding Children Workshop. This is a three-hour interactive workshop which assists individuals engaging with children and young people to identify and build on best practice in football, recognise signs of abuse, identify behaviour that causes concern and decide on



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the appropriate action to take if there are concerns about a child. In order to keep up to date with safeguarding issues those working in eligible roles with children and young people must complete further safeguarding training every 3 years either online in their own time or by attending a further Safeguarding Children Workshop.

Coaches and managers are also required to attend an FA Emergency Aid course which is also renewed every 3 years. Alternative first aid certification, such as St John's Ambulance or other workplace first aid training may be suitable – this should be assessed by the Club Welfare Officer and County FA prior to being accepted.

A list of club members certification/qualifications are held by Sedlescombe Rangers FC and the Sussex FA. This enables club officials to track and ensure that the relevant certification is up to date.

In line with the FA's safeguarding strategy Sedlescombe Rangers FC has a designated Club Welfare Officer and an Assistant Club Welfare Officer. The key roles of the Club Welfare Officer/s (CWO) are to ensure that all eligible individuals have the necessary certification; to make certain that safeguarding is embedded in the club; to promote best practice and to deal with any poor practice and welfare issues that may arise. Club Welfare Officers are required to attend the FA Safeguarding Children Workshop and a Welfare Officer Workshop in addition to having an in-date enhanced DBS/ criminal records check.

Sedlescombe Rangers FC's CWOs are:

- Tracy Shonk: tracys@sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk
- Nick Gardner: nickg@sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk

Given the allegations of sexual abuse which have been reported in the media with regard to professional football, Sedlescombe Rangers FC has decided to arrange a workshop for all its coaches and managers. The objective is to build upon the existing knowledge that coaches and managers would have obtained via the Safeguarding Children Workshop. Key aims will be to provide information about what child sexual abuse is; who abusers are; about the prevalence of abuse; how abusers 'operate' within organisations such as football clubs and how to identify behavioural warning signs in children and young people that might indicate they are being groomed or abused in addition to behavioural signs in adults that might indicate they are using their position to sexually harm children and young people.

Should parents/guardians wish to attend the workshop you are more than welcome. Please contact a CWO for further details.

The decision to deliver this workshop has been made in response to the current climate of concern in order to reassure parents and carers that Sedlescombe Rangers FC is dedicated to safeguarding



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children and young people from all forms of abuse. It is anticipated it will provide additional knowledge and information which will reinforce the clubs existing safeguarding strategy.

You can find more detailed information about Sedlescombe Rangers FC safeguarding policies and practices on the club website at www.sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk.

If you have any questions about safeguarding or any welfare concerns you can email me on tracys@sedlescomberangersfc.co.uk