



# Whistleblowing Policy

As a club we are committed to encouraging and maintaining a culture where people feel able to raise a genuine concern and are confident that it will be taken seriously.

## 1. What is Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing is when someone raises a concern about a dangerous or illegal activity or any wrongdoing within the club. A whistle blower may be a player, a volunteer, a coach, a parent, or a member of the public

### 1.1. How to Raise a Concern.

**If a child or an adult at risk is in immediate danger or risk of harm, the police should be contacted by calling 999.**

**Where there is no immediate danger any concerns should be raised with the club Welfare Officer.** If the allegation is about the club Welfare Officer, the Chair or senior member of the committee should be informed.

### 1.2. How the club will respond.

- a) If the concern is that a member of staff or volunteer has or may have
  - behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child.
  - committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
  - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates that he/she would pose a risk of harm to children

The Welfare Officer (or other as above) will contact the LTA and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to discuss how the allegation should be investigated.

- b) If the concern does not match any of these criteria or, after consideration with the LADO or other appropriate agencies, it is agreed that the matter should be dealt with by internal processes the club will consult the LTA to determine the most appropriate action.
- c) If the concern is that the club has not followed appropriate safeguarding procedures or has not pressed other agencies where concerns about a child persists, the Welfare Officer should be approached to seek assurances that appropriate action will be taken.

- d) If 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, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

### **1.3. Confidentiality & Support**

- a) All concerns will be treated in strictest confidence by all concerned. The club will protect the identity of whistle blowers as much as possible.
- b) However, particularly in the context of safeguarding concerns, it may be that an investigation process may reveal the source of the information, even if the identity of the whistleblower is kept anonymous.
- c) All staff/volunteers involved in any related investigations must maintain confidentiality during and after the conclusion.
- d) The club will take steps to minimise any difficulties and provide appropriate support and advice to staff/volunteers passing on concerns.
- e) Depending on the nature of the concerns and the subsequent type of investigation the whistleblower will be updated appropriately.
- f) All involved will attempt to ensure that any allegation is dealt with fairly, quickly, proportionately, and consistently in a way that provides effective protection for the child and at the same time supports the person who is subject to the allegation and the person bringing the concern to the attention of the club.

#### **Organisations who can provide support include:**

Club Welfare Officer: Brandon McGlave	<a href="mailto:brandonmcglave13@gmail.com">brandonmcglave13@gmail.com</a>
Notts LTA	<a href="https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk/">https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk/</a>
	020 8487 7000
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	<a href="https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/children-and-families/nottingham-city-safeguarding-children-board/worried-about-a-child/lado/">https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-residents/children-and-families/nottingham-city-safeguarding-children-board/worried-about-a-child/lado/</a>
	0115 977 3921.
NSPCC	<a href="https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection">https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection</a>
	0808 800 5000.