



Oxford United Safeguarding Quick Guide

Season 2025/26

Applies to: All staff, volunteers, contractors, players, parents, and visitors.

Our Commitment

Oxford United Football Club is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and adults at risk. We aim to create an environment where everyone feels respected, safe, and able to thrive—on and off the pitch.

What This Covers

This guide supports our full Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy and covers:

- Signs of abuse
 - How to report concerns
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Good practice guidance
 - Safer recruitment
 - Mental health, contextual safeguarding, and inclusion
-

Key Roles

- **Senior Safeguarding Manager (SSM):** Leads the Club's safeguarding strategy and oversees all safeguarding work.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Manages day-to-day safeguarding cases and staff support.
- **Designated Safeguarding Officer & Matchday Safeguarding Officer (DSO & MSO):** DSO ensures following of safeguarding practice and safeguarding incidents are reported. MSO supports and enforces safeguarding policies are followed on matchday events.

- **All Staff and Volunteers:** Must follow safeguarding policies and report concerns immediately.
-

How to Report a Concern

- **If a child or adult is at immediate risk:** Call emergency services (999).
 - **For all other concerns:** Report directly to the DSL or Senior Safeguarding Manager. Alternatively scan QR code:
 - **Low-level concerns:** These still matter. Report anything that feels off or inappropriate—early action prevents harm.
-

Key Safeguarding Principles

- **Welfare First:** The individual's safety is always the top priority.
 - **Empowerment:** Support individuals to be part of decisions about them.
 - **Prevention:** Act before harm occurs.
 - **Partnership:** Work with others to protect people.
 - **Accountability:** Everyone is responsible for safeguarding.
-

Types of Abuse to Be Aware Of

- Physical
 - Emotional
 - Sexual
 - Neglect
 - Discriminatory
 - Financial
 - Institutional
 - Exploitation (e.g. grooming, county lines)
-

Good Practice Guidelines

- Always work in open, visible environments.
 - Avoid one-to-one contact unless unavoidable (and always record it).
 - Maintain professional boundaries—online and in person.
 - Always gain consent when appropriate, especially for images.
 - Include and respect everyone, regardless of background or ability.
-

Training and Safer Recruitment

- All staff and volunteers must complete regular safeguarding training.
 - No one can work with children or adults at risk without appropriate DBS checks and references.
-

Other Considerations

- Be mindful of mental health, disability, and cultural needs.
 - Report concerns sensitively, confidentially, and with care.
-

Contact Us

- **Senior Safeguarding Manager:** Andrew Taylor
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Jack Nield
- **Email:** safeguarding@oufc.co.uk