

NLS (1 – 4): OPEN – AGE TEAM SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

PART A: INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CLUB

CLUB DETAILS		
Club name	FC United of Manchester	
League	Northern Premier League Premier Division	
County / FA	Manchester	
Approx. No. of U18 players playing open-age football:	1	
Approx No. of U18 players involved in linked affiliated youth teams (where applicable):	130, this includes Moston Juniors FC	
Approx No. of participants within the 16-19 academy / education provision (where applicable):	N/A	



CLUB SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN USE		
Safeguarding children	YES	NO
Adults at risk	YES	NO
Social media use	YES	NO
Use of photograph and filming	YES	NO
Anti-bullying	YES	NO
Code of Conduct, including acceptable behaviour	YES	NO
Equality, diversity, and inclusion	YES	NO
Managing challenging behaviour	YES	NO
Matchday safeguarding plan	YES	NO
Data/Information sharing	YES	NO
Complaints	YES	NO

CLUB WELFARE OFFICER (ADULT TEAMS)		
Name:	Chris Boulderstone	
Email:	Chris.boulderstone@fc-utd.uk	
Phone:	07813913357	

CLUB BOARD SAFEGUARDING CHAMPION		
Name:	Warren Heppollette	
Email:	Warren.heppollette@fc-utd.uk	
Phone:	07855092564	

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AREA OF CONCERN	WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS TO CHILDREN (U18S) / ADULTS AT RISK OF HARM.	RISK LEVEL	ACTION TO REDUCE OR REMOVE THE RISK / CONCERNS?	RESPONSIBILITY	CHANGE TO RISK LEVEL	REVIEW ACTIVITY (WHO?)
			- Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) is accessible and is active within the club to ensure safeguarding has high visibility. - Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) is proactive in providing opportunities for U18 players to share experiences, views, and opinions.			
Codes of conduct	Unacceptable behaviour that could physically or emotionally damage individuals could go unchallenged. Poor safeguarding culture becomes normalised.	High	- Codes of Conduct are in place. - Codes of Conduct are shared and agreed to annually with all staff / volunteers / players. - Procedures are in place to report a breach of the Codes of Conduct and respond to such breaches.	Club Welfare officer/Senior management	Low	Board Safeguarding champion/Club Welfare Officer
2. OPERATIONAL RISKS						
Consent (Participation)	Parents / carers unaware of their child's involvement.	Moderate	Appropriate consent forms are obtained from the U18 player / and their parent / carer in line with FA Safeguarding Guidance Note 8.2.	Club Secretary	Low	Senior Management/Club Secretary
Consent (Photography, Social media / commercial activity)	U18 with protection orders could be identified and location recognised. U18 may not be prepared for media interest / exposure – which may not all be positive.	High	- Appropriate consent forms obtained from the U18 player / and their parent / carer in line with FA Safeguarding Guidance Note 8.3. - Where media interest is anticipated, an appropriate member of club staff supports the U18 player / and their parent / carer.	Club Secretary/head Coach/Club Welfare officer	Low	Senior management/head team coach/Board Safeguarding champion
Medical (Consent / information sharing)	Lack of awareness of an individual's medical needs may result in these not being met.	Moderate	- Medical consent from the U18 player / and their parent / carer, along with emergency contact information is collected in line with FA Safeguarding Guidance Note 8.2. - Medical information is gathered in the player registration form and reviewed annually. - Medical information sharing follows the club data protection policy.	Club Secretary	low	Senior management

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			- All players (adult and U18) reminded about how to raise a concern. - The club follow FA guidance on Digital Communications and Children			
Staff / Volunteer suitability	Risk of unsuitable adults gaining access to and working with vulnerable participants	High	- Club have a recruitment and selection process that aligns to the FA recommended process and is followed consistently. - DBS checks are undertaken promptly for those who require them and before they start carrying out any DBS regulated activity. - An induction process is in place for all new staff, which includes providing information related to safeguarding within their role, what to do if they have a concern and an introduction to key contacts, including the Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams). - When engaging volunteers who are U18 consideration is given to the fact they are legally children.	Senior management/club welfare officer	Low	Club Welfare Officer/Senior Management/club secretary/chair of board
Supervision (Inappropriate supervision of U18)	U18 are not appropriately supervised.	Moderate	- The FA and Child Protection in Sport Unit supervision ratios are adhered to. - DBS guidance related to U18 players is followed. - U18 player always have access to a named point of contact.	Club Welfare Officer/head team coach	low	Senior management/club welfare officer
Changing rooms (Open-Age team with adult and U18 players)	Risk of unwanted or inappropriate contact. Photos taken in changing room and circulated without consent/used inappropriately e.g., sexual images/bullying/exploitation. Initiation activities with U18s.	High	- An appropriate member of club staff speaks to U18 player(s) and ensures they are given the choice as to whether they want to shower / change at the same time as adult players. - Alternative arrangements offered to U18 player –this may include the option to travel to game changed, change before adult teammates, or use a separate changing space.	Head team coach/club secretary/club welfare officer/parent/carer	low	Senior Management/Board safeguarding champion

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			- Room with another U18 player (must be individual beds). • A separate risk assessment is undertaken which details specific arrangements related to this activity and the named person responsible for the U18 player. • FA guidance note related to travel and overnight stays has been considered.			
Players living away from home (U18 players, including loan arrangements)	U18 players who are living away from home in order to train with the club may be at risk.	Moderate	• The club are aware of all U18 players who are living away from home. • The club follow league issued advice and guidance. • Accommodation arrangements are assessed, agreed, and monitored by the club. • All arrangements are agreed in collaboration with player, parent / carer, club, and accommodation provider. • Safeguarding procedures, including an introduction to Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) are provided to player, parent / carer, club, and accommodation provider. • Accommodation providers are subject to safer recruitment processes, including provision of safeguarding training.	Club Secretary/Senior management	Low	Board Safeguarding champion
Match day operations (Child activities)	Safeguarding is not considered as part of match day arrangement (child activities) which may create risk.	Moderate	• A match day plan includes consideration to safeguarding. • Where children are involved in match day activities (i.e. ball retrieval or mascots) additional risk assessments are undertaken and appropriate supervision, procedures and consent are considered.	Club Welfare officer	low	Board Safeguarding champion
Match day operations (Spectators)	Safeguarding (spectators) is not considered as part of match day arrangement which may create risk.	Moderate	• A match day plan exists that considers all health and safety risks. i.e. car parking.	All Staff and volunteers	Low	Club welfare officer/board safeguarding champion/senior

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Safeguarding awareness raising	Lack of safeguarding knowledge may mean parents / carers are not able to effectively support this child and / or identify and respond to safeguarding concerns.	Moderate	- Parents / carers invited to a club induction, links to digital parent / carer pack provided. - Parents / carers encouraged to complete The FA Safeguarding Awareness for Parents & Carers course	Senior management/club welfare officer/club secretary	low	Board safeguarding champion
4. MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AND CONCERNS						
Making a referral or raising a concern (Awareness club wide, including U18 players)	Lack of understanding about how or when to refer could result in a delay in referring or non-referral.	Moderate	- Staff and volunteers follow the Safeguarding Policy regarding referring and managing an allegation or concern. - Club ensures all staff / volunteers are briefed and aware of their safeguarding duty. - Contact details for the Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) and referral process are readily available throughout the club, including the club website. - Club ensures that all players have information pertaining to who they should raise concerns to and how. - Club ensures that parents / carers of U18 know who they should raise concerns to and how. - Club ensures that NSPCC and FA Whistleblowing contact details are known and shared throughout the club.	Club welfare officer/club secretary/senior management	low	Board safeguarding champion
Confidential Information (Safeguarding records)	Confidential safeguarding information is not stored correctly and may be accessed.	High	- Club has systems in place to ensure that safeguarding records are stored in a secure manner. - Information is shared only with those who are required to know.	Club Welfare officer	low	Board safeguarding champion
5. WORKING TOGETHER						

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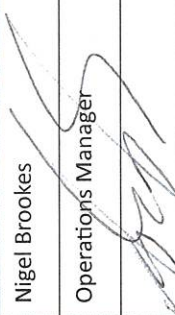
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			• Player and parent are informed throughout process and consent is given.			
Relationships across the club (Links to Youth / Disability Football Teams)	Where purposeful relationships do not exist, an individual may have a different experience within different parts of the club. Concerns may go unreported or missed.	Moderate	• Those involved with the running of the open-age team work with those involved with the delivery of Youth / Disability football to share information, knowledge, and opportunities to create a cohesive safeguarding culture.	Head team coach	low	Club welfare officer/board safeguarding champion
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6. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS						
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Nearest Walk-in Centre (WIA) address:	Integrated Care Center, new Radcliffe Street, Oldham OL1 1NL Directions: Out of stadium turn right onto Lightbowne Road 0.2 miles then RIGHT onto Nuthurst Road 0.5 miles then LEFT onto Rochdale Road 2.3 miles then RIGHT onto Middleton Road 1.2 miles then LEFT onto Rochdale Road, 450 feet then turn right at the mini-roundabout, 0.1 miles to the Integrated Care Centre
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PART D: SIGN OFF AND DISTRIBUTION

SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY:	
Name:	Nigel Brookes
Club/League role:	Operations Manager
Signature:	
Date:	16/10/25

Name:	Chris Bolderstone
Club/League role:	Club welfare officer
Signature:	
Date:	16/10/25

AGREED BY BOARD SAFEGUARDING CHAMPION:	
Name:	Warren Heppollette
Club/League role:	Board Safeguarding lead
Signature:	
Date:	16/10/25

RISK ASSESSMENT DISTRIBUTION LIST

NAME OF PERSON RECEIVING	ORGANISATION	DATE	DISTRIBUTED BY
Frances Fielding	FC United of Manchester		Nigel Brookes
Terry Carroll	FC United of Manchester		Nigel Brookes

End Note

Clubs are advised to undertake regular risk assessments of the club activities, ensuring that each one is named, signed and dated by those completing and approving it. Risk assessments are 'living documents' and should be updated and reviewed regularly and kept in active use to mitigate any new or changing risks. Clubs should undertake specific employee/volunteer risk assessments for anyone undertaking high-risk roles or tasks.