



England Walking Football — Welfare & Safeguarding Policy (Adults Only)

1. Purpose of the Policy

England Walking Football is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all adult participants. While walking football is played by adults, safeguarding and welfare principles still apply to protect individuals from harm, discrimination, or abuse, and to promote wellbeing on and off the pitch.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All players, coaches, managers, referees, volunteers, committee members, and spectators involved in England Walking Football activities.
- All matches, training sessions, tournaments, and social events organised under the England Walking Football name.

3. Core Principles

- Respect — Treat everyone with dignity, regardless of age, ability, gender, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Wellbeing — Promote the physical, emotional, and mental health of all participants.
- Safety — Maintain a safe environment free from harassment, abuse, bullying, or discrimination.
- Responsibility — Everyone has a role to play in looking out for each other.

4. Safeguarding Adults at Risk

While all participants are over 18, some adults may be considered Adults at Risk due to physical, mental, or emotional vulnerabilities.

We will:

- Be alert to signs of abuse or neglect.
- Respond promptly to concerns.
- Follow the FA Safeguarding Adults Policy and statutory guidance.

5. Code of Conduct

All participants agree to:

- Play within the rules and the spirit of walking football.
- Avoid aggressive behaviour, both physical and verbal.
- Respect officials and accept their decisions without abuse.
- Avoid discriminatory language or conduct.
- Report concerns about welfare or behaviour to the Welfare Officer.



6. Welfare Officer

The appointed Welfare Officer will:

- Act as the main point of contact for welfare and safeguarding concerns.
- Ensure policies are communicated and followed.
- Maintain confidentiality except where disclosure is required by law or policy.
- Undertake appropriate safeguarding training.

Welfare Officer Contact:

Name: Amanda Bell

Email: amanda@englandwalkingfootball.co.uk

Phone: Contactable via EWF internal WhatsApp

7. Reporting Concerns

Concerns can be reported to:

- The Welfare Officer (preferred first contact).
- Any committee member.
- The FA Safeguarding Team or relevant authorities if necessary.

We will:

- Take all concerns seriously.
- Handle reports confidentially.
- Take proportionate action in line with FA guidance and the law.

8. Health & Safety

- All sessions will have a first aid kit available and a trained first aider present.
- Emergency procedures will be explained to all participants.
- Players must declare relevant medical conditions and take personal responsibility for managing them.
- Risk assessments will be carried out for venues and events.

9. Data Protection & Confidentiality

Personal information relating to welfare or safeguarding will be stored securely and only shared when necessary.

10. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually or following significant changes in legislation or FA guidance.