

Club Safeguarding Policy Amendment- Covid 19

West Ham United



This amendment should be read in conjunction with the Club Safeguarding Policy, Staff Code of Conduct and Player Behaviour Policy. (<https://www.whufc.com/club/safeguarding>)

Club statement:

The way in which our football Club is currently operating in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of our important safeguarding principles remain the same:

- with regard to safeguarding, the best interests of Children will always continue to come first
- with regards to adults at risk, West Ham United Football Club, it's Staff, Management and Board of Directors continue to work to safeguard and promote the welfare of Adult at Risk
- if anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, young person or adult at risk connected to the Club they should continue to act and act immediately
- club reporting procedures must be followed without excuse or delay
- a Designated Safeguarding Officer or Deputy will always be available
- in all safeguarding matters, safeguarding leads are available to provide oversight, leadership, guidance and liaise with relevant internal departments and external agencies and services
- All existing and new staff engaged in remote work with children and Adults at Risk are suitably cleared to do so. Unsuitable people are not allowed to enter the Club workforce and/or gain access to children or Adults at Risk.
- children, young people and Adults at Risk continue to be protected when they are online and in their communication with those providing services on behalf of West Ham United Football Club.
- peer abuse is behaviour by an individual or group, intending to physically, sexually or emotionally hurt others. All staff should recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers and report incidences and concerns
- that allegations of non- recent abuse must be reported and acted upon without delay
- this policy applies to all those receiving services from or providing services on behalf of West Ham United Football Club.

Club Safeguarding Contacts:

During the Covid-19 lockdown period the Safeguarding contacts for the Club are as follows:

Name	Roles – (however if unavailable contact any member of the Safeguarding Team)	Contact details-
Jackie Ferdinand	Club & Academy Women’s Safeguarding Lead	07801 406 447 jferdinand@westhamunited.co.uk
Laura Osborne Smith	Academy Men’s Safeguarding Lead	07711 560090 losborne-smith@westhamunited.co.uk
Sarah Lancaster	Foundation (Community), Safeguarding Lead	07711 558915 slancaster@westhamunited.co.uk

A child, young person or adult are in immediate danger/ threat to life

1. Remember that in an emergency or where there is risk to life you should contact the Police and/or Ambulance Service on 999, inform them that your call is about a potential child protection/ safeguarding issue
2. Contact the Head of Safeguarding or any member of the Safeguarding Team.

Q: What should I do if I’ve done the above and not received guidance from the Club’s Safeguarding Team?

A: You can call the NSPCC 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000

Concerns about the Head of Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about the Head of Safeguarding's behaviour towards a child or young person, please contact Newham LADO Services - 020 3373 3803

Other Safeguarding contacts in football:

Whilst any safeguarding concern should be raised with the Club Safeguarding contacts in the first instance, we recognise that this may not always be possible or appropriate. Below are the contact details for footballing partners with whom safeguarding concerns in relation to the Club can be discussed:

The Premier League Football League Safeguarding Team can be contacted by contacting by emailing safeguarding@premierleague.com or by calling 0207 864 9000 for advice, to raise a concern or to help you get in touch with your Club's Safeguarding Team.

The FA Safeguarding Team

Tel: 0800 169 1863

Email: Safeguarding@TheFA.com

Current Whistleblowing Safeguarding Procedures

If you think a child is in immediate danger, don't delay – call the police on 999

If you have any concerns about a child in your workplace you should raise this with you're the Head of Safeguarding or any member of the Safeguarding Team in the first instance however, concerns about the Head of Safeguarding's conduct must be reported to Newham's LADO Nick Pratt 0203 373 3803 Nick.pratt@newham.gov.uk and Andy Mollett (The Club's Safeguarding Board Lead) amollett@westhamunited.co.uk

Or

NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line - if you have concerns about how child protection issues are being handled in their own or another organisation

Procedures and Safety Measures for online learning:

The Club expects all staff and players to adhere to the relevant policy boundaries must be maintained at all times. We have put extra measures in place to reduce the risks in relation to online learning which include:

- All contact online being observable and interruptible
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing as should anyone else in the household
- Any computers being used should be in appropriate areas, for example not in bedrooms and the background should not be blurred
- Online teaching will not be carried out on a one to one basis and will be done in a group setting with several players present,
- Another adult will be invited to be present in the room
- All communication provided will have an educational purpose
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background
- The Club will record online teaching/instruction sessions. Players and parents will be informed that sessions are being recorded in advance of doing so.
- All sessions provided will be via the Clubs I.T platform (for example remote desktop) or Wi-Fi (where possible)

Mental health:

Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect the mental health of us all. Players who are struggling under the current circumstances should contact the Club safeguarding staff as outlined above. Support can also be accessed through a number of national organisations including:

The Samaritans Tel: 116 123 <https://www.samaritans.org>

ChildLine: Tel: 0800 1111 <https://www.childline.org.uk>

NSPCC: Tel: 0808 800 5000 <https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

Mind:

Tel: 0300 123 3393

<https://www.mind.org.uk>

Online safety:

It is important that internet safety and security messages are re-enforced during this time when we are expecting young people to be online more often. They may also be increasing their usage on devices during their own free time during this lockdown period. It is important that both players and parents are aware of the help and support available should they be concerned about something they have seen or experienced online. These include:

UK Safer Internet Centre <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

CEOP <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Internet Matters <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

NetAware <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

ParentInfo <https://parentinfo.org/>

ThinkuKnow <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>