

THE FIVE PRINCIPLE



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN FOOTBALL IS BASED AROUND THE FOLLOWING FIVE PRINCIPLES THAT APPLY TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS:



PRINCIPLE 1



We will act in the best interests of children. Ensuring that children are safeguarded is part of a commitment to enhancing their enjoyment of and performance in football.





PRINCIPLE 2

Children's rights, as set out in the UNCRC, will be respected and promoted throughout the game of football. Amongst other factors, this means that:

- a. A "child" or "young person" is anyone under the age of 18 years. While recognising that programs differ for young children and adolescents, hereinafter the toolkit refers to all individuals under 18 years as "children", regardless of the age of majority in the country where the child lives.
- b. Every child has the right to take part in football in a safe and inclusive environment free from all forms of abuse, harassment and exploitation.
- c. We will put the child before the player, referee, supporter or other role they may have in football.
- d. We recognise that any form of abuse disrespects the rights of the child and will not be tolerated.
- e. Children have a right to participate and be heard across the game, including by having a say in shaping safeguarding policy and practice, and for their views and opinions to be taken into consideration in all decisions and actions concerning them.

PRINCIPLE 3

 The principles and practices in this toolkit will be applied to all children and without discrimination on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason. 





PRINCIPLE 4

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility, regardless of the country we are from or the role we hold in football. This means that when children are in our care, we have a duty to safeguard them, without exception.



PRINCIPLE 5

Specific roles and responsibilities must be defined within MAs and all concerns will be reported and dealt with immediately in accordance with stated procedures, in line with national legislation, and with the best interests of the child as the primary concern

