

Kingswood Sports FC Whistleblowing Policy

Policy Number: KU-WB-01

Effective Date: September 2024

Approved by: Committee

Version: 1.0

1. Purpose

This policy provides a framework for volunteers and other stakeholders of Kingswood United FC to raise concerns about suspected wrongdoing or dangers in connection with the Football Club's activities. It aims to promote a culture of openness and accountability, ensuring whistleblowers can report concerns without fear of retaliation.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all volunteers, contractors, and other stakeholders of Kingswood FC.

3. Definitions

Whistleblowing: Reporting suspected wrongdoing or dangers concerning the Football Club's activities. This includes, but is not limited to, criminal activity, failure to comply with legal obligations, miscarriages of justice, health and safety dangers, environmental damage, and concealment of any of the above.

Whistleblower: Any individual who raises a concern about suspected wrongdoing or dangers in connection with the Football Club's activities.

4. Policy Statement

- Kingswood Sports FC is committed to the highest standards of openness, integrity, and accountability.
- The Football Club encourages individuals to raise genuine concerns about suspected wrongdoing or dangers immediately.
- All concerns will be taken seriously, investigated thoroughly, and addressed appropriately.
- Whistleblowers will be protected from retaliation and victimisation.

5. Responsibilities

Committee:

- Ensure the implementation and review of this policy.

- Provide leadership and support for whistleblowing initiatives.
- Ensure concerns are investigated and addressed appropriately.

Welfare Officer:

- Act as the main point of contact for whistleblowing concerns.
- Ensure concerns are investigated promptly and thoroughly.
- Maintain confidentiality and protect whistleblowers from retaliation.

Volunteers:

- Raise concerns about suspected wrongdoing or dangers concerning the Football Club's activities.
- Co-operate with investigations and provide relevant information.

6. Procedures for Raising Concerns

1. Initial Concerns:

- Concerns should be raised with the Welfare Officer.

2. Reporting Methods:

- Concerns can be raised verbally or in writing.
- Written concerns should include details of the suspected wrongdoing or danger, including dates, times, and supporting evidence.

3. Confidentiality:

- The Football Club will keep the whistleblower's identity confidential unless required to disclose it by law.
- Whistleblowers are encouraged to identify themselves to aid the investigation, but anonymous reports will also be considered.

7. Investigating Concerns

1. Acknowledgement:

- The Welfare Officer will acknowledge receipt of the concern within five working days.
- The whistleblower will be informed about the next steps and the expected timeframe for the investigation.

2. Investigation:

- The Welfare Officer will thoroughly investigate, reviewing documents, interviewing individuals, and consulting with external experts.
- The investigation will be conducted impartially and without bias.

3. Outcome:

- The Welfare Officer will report the findings to the Committee.
- Appropriate action will be taken based on the investigation's findings.
- The whistleblower will be informed of the outcome, subject to confidentiality constraints.

8. Protection for Whistleblowers

1. Protection from Retaliation:

- Whistleblowers will be protected from retaliation, victimisation, or any other detriment resulting from raising a concern.
- Any individual who retaliates against a whistleblower will face disciplinary action.

2. Support:

- Whistleblowers will have access to support and advice throughout the process.
- The Charity will provide counselling and other support services as needed.

9. False Reporting

- Whistleblowers must act in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates wrongdoing or danger.
- Disciplinary action may be taken against individuals who make malicious or knowingly false reports.

10. Monitoring and Review

- The Welfare Officer will monitor the implementation of this policy and report to the Committee
- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.
- Feedback from volunteers, and whistleblowers will be considered in the review process.

11. Contact Information

For any queries or assistance regarding this policy, please contact:

Welfare Officer: Mike Corlyon - welfare@kingswoodunited.co.uk

This policy is intended to clarify and assure all associated with Kingswood United FC that bullying and harassment will not be tolerated and that procedures exist to address such behaviour effectively.

This policy ensures that Kingswood United FC provides a safe and confidential process for raising concerns about suspected wrongdoing or dangers, promoting a culture of openness and accountability.