

# VERWOOD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

## Adult Welfare Policy

Supporting the wellbeing of all adults at Verwood Town FC

<b>Version</b>	Version 2.0 – April 2026
<b>Date of issue</b>	April 2026
<b>Review due</b>	Annually, or following any significant incident or change in FA guidance
<b>Policy owner</b>	Club Welfare Officer / Club Secretary (as applicable)

### 1. COMMITMENT

Verwood Town Football Club is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all adults who participate in, coach or volunteer at the club. All adults, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.

### 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all adult members of the club including adult players, coaches, managers, officials, volunteers and committee members.

### 3. WHAT IS ADULT ABUSE?

Adult abuse can take many forms including:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Discriminatory abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Modern slavery

Any concern about the welfare of an adult must be taken seriously and responded to appropriately.

### 4. REPORTING A CONCERN

#### If you have a concern about an adult's welfare:

1. Report your concern to the Club Welfare Officer as soon as possible.
2. If the concern involves the Club Welfare Officer, report to the Club Chairperson.
3. If an adult is at immediate risk of harm, call 999. Do not wait for a club investigation.
4. For non-emergency concerns about an adult's safety, contact Dorset Council Adult Care (01305 221016).

All concerns will be taken seriously and handled confidentially, in accordance with the club's Disciplinary & Complaints Policy where appropriate.

**Important:** If you are concerned that an adult is at immediate risk of serious harm, always call 999 first. Do not leave them alone if it is safe for you to stay.

## 5. FA PLAYER WELFARE COURSE

From the 2024/25 season, all open-age team officials (managers, coaches, assistants, medics and first aiders) are required to complete the FA Player Welfare Course. This free, 45-minute online course covers the welfare responsibilities of officials working with adult players. Certificates of completion must be provided to the Club Secretary.

## 6. SUPPORT RESOURCES

Key Contacts	
<b>Club Welfare Officer</b>	Clare Nixson – <a href="mailto:welfare@vtyfc.co.uk">welfare@vtyfc.co.uk</a> / 07758 246452
<b>Dorset FA Safeguarding</b>	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@dorsetfa.com">safeguarding@dorsetfa.com</a> / 01202 688270
<b>Dorset Council Adult Care</b>	01305 221016
<b>Ann Craft Trust (sport)</b>	<a href="http://anncrafttrust.org">anncrafttrust.org</a>
<b>Dorset Mind</b>	<a href="http://dorsetmind.uk">dorsetmind.uk</a>
<b>Sporting Chance</b>	<a href="http://sportingchanceclinic.com">sportingchanceclinic.com</a>
<b>Paragon (domestic abuse)</b>	<a href="http://paragonteam.org.uk/teams/dorset">paragonteam.org.uk/teams/dorset</a>
<b>Samaritans (24/7)</b>	<a href="http://samaritans.org">samaritans.org</a> / 116 123
<b>GambleAware</b>	<a href="http://gambleaware.org">gambleaware.org</a>
<b>Addictions (EDP)</b>	<a href="http://edp.org.uk/reach">edp.org.uk/reach</a>