Safeguarding Policy 2026

SUPERCUPNI Safeguarding Policy

Policy Statement

The Tournament Management Team (TMT) of SuperCupNI wish to ensure that all persons participating in the Tournament do so in an enjoyable and safe environment in which they have fun and feel valued.

The SuperCupNI will provide a Courier for each team who will address and respond to Safeguarding issues for all visiting teams to link in with should there be a specific requirement. They will also ensure this policy is provided to all teams for their information and guidance.

The SuperCupNI will ensure that all persons assisting in any way in the running of the tournament will be made aware of this policy, including staff, volunteers, and officials.

TOURNAMENT DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

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1. Scope

This policy describes how SuperCupNI ensures that Safeguarding is implemented and complies with the law.

The following legislation, policies and directives have been considered during the development of this policy:

- Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young Persons in (NI) policy dated August 2017.
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007 (as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012)
- The Children (NI) Order 1995
- NSPCC Learning

This policy is designed to help protect children and young people aged under 18 and vulnerable adults from any form of unacceptable behaviour including sexual misbehaviour, physical acts, inappropriate remarks, suggestive gestures, pictures, other materials, or other forms of abuse such as physical violence or bullying.

A vulnerable adult is a person[1] *"Who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness; and is or may be unable to take care of or be unable to protect him or*

[1] The core definition of "vulnerable adult" from the 1997 Consultation "Who Decides?" issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department

herself against significant harm or exploitation". This definition of an Adult covers all people aged 18 years or over.

A Child or young person is defined as a person who is under the age of 18 years.

2. Policy Principles

All young people, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, social status, or sexual orientation have the right to be protected from abuse. The rights, dignity and worth of all young people should always be respected. All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly.

Those that deal with children, young people and vulnerable adults must:

- Take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of any child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
- Ensure that any activities are appropriate to the age, maturity, and ability of those participating.
- Consistently display high standards of personal behaviour and appearance.
- Ensure behaviour, language, gestures etc. are appropriate and above reproach.
- Avoid spending time alone with children, young people or vulnerable adults including car journeys. Meetings with individuals should take place as openly as possible and always with the full knowledge of another responsible person.
- Not make any unnecessary physical contact. If you accidentally hurt a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or cause distress in any way, report the incident as soon as possible. Parents/carers should also be informed of the occurrence.
- The welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- Those providing services for young people should have a procedure for handling child protection allegations consistent with current practice.
- All children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, or beliefs.
- No child or group of children must be treated any less favorably than others in being able to access services which meet their needs.
- All allegations should be taken seriously and treated in accordance with child protection procedures and managed by the Tournament Designated Safeguarding Officer (TDSO).
- The Social Services and the police will be notified by the TDSO of any issues of concern for consideration of further investigation.

3. Safeguarding and Legal Responsibilities

SuperCupNI will ensure all personnel including employees, volunteers, associates*, and subcontractors understand and comply with both the law and good practice around Safeguarding.

Any personnel who are in contact with a child or vulnerable adult are made aware time alone with must be kept to an absolute minimum before immediately requesting assistance from another staff member. Any personnel who have any doubt, concerns or are made aware of any instance of abuse of a child, young person or vulnerable adult has a duty of reporting it immediately and appropriately.

SuperCupNI is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and as such carries out quality assurance activity to ensure the needs of competitors and teams have been adequately reviewed.

***'Safeguarding responsibilities are formalised through a signed Safeguarding Agreement**.'*
(See Appendix 2)

4. Reporting and Record Keeping

SuperCupNI will ensure all requests for reasonable adjustments are documented and any records of instances or allegations are kept for audit and review. We will take appropriate action if there is any suspicion that anyone is physically, emotionally, or sexually abusing a child, young person, or vulnerable adult. Report any evidence or reasonable suspicion that a child, young person, or vulnerable adult has been physically, emotionally, or sexually abused to the people or agencies whose role is to protect them (e.g., parents, police, or social services). All reports are treated with the strictest confidence.

It is the responsibility of safeguarding and child protection experts to determine whether abuse has taken place, however, SuperCupNI will ensure anyone who encounters a child, young person or vulnerable adult takes personal responsibility to act appropriately and report concerns.

The following 9 objectives will be the driving pillars for the Tournament Management Team around Safeguarding during the event:

1. Each competing team in the SuperCupNI should have a Safeguarding Officer in place and a suitable Safeguarding Policy in force so that all their staff are aware of their responsibilities. Copies will be required by the tournament organisers and kept by them for future examination.
2. The SuperCupNI will not employ, either paid or as a volunteer, any child, unless that child is directly supervised by their parent, guardian, or a responsible adult in a Regulated Position.

*(Associates includes all persons associated with the tournament but NOT directly under the control of the TMT or tournament staff)

3. No member of the Tournament Staff should allow themselves to be placed in a position of becoming responsible for any child, young person or vulnerable adult being either a member of any of the teams, volunteer staff or a spectator unless compliant with this policy.
4. Members of the Tournament Staff should always deal with the responsible adult and should never go into any changing room, toilet, hotel room or vehicle, without the responsible adult being always present.
5. Members of SuperCupNI Staff should always treat all young people with courtesy and respect and ensure as far as possible others do the same. If staff become aware or are suspicious that any child, young person or vulnerable adult is possibly suffering any abuse no matter how trivial they should report this to the person in charge of their area of responsibility, who should complete the Incident Report Form and notify the TDSO as at 6 below.
6. Any member of SuperCupNI Staff, who becomes suspicious of any person at any ground, accommodation, vehicle, or anywhere is acting in an inappropriate manner towards any child, young person or vulnerable adult may they be either player or spectator, should notify the TDSO immediately and complete the Incident Report Form, which will be made available to all staff. Contact numbers will be made available to all staff prior to the Tournament.
7. Any incident of a lost or found child at any ground should be dealt with as per the SuperCupNI Lost/Found Child Policy *(see Appendix 1)* . If a child, young person, or vulnerable adult is found at least two staff should deal with them in a calm manner so not to distress them further.
8. Any incident related to this policy that is reported to the TDSO will be recorded and details brought to the attention of the PSNI for consideration of further action as necessary.
9. All staff should receive information or relevant training before the Tournament commences.

In respect of this Tournament, it should be noted that the IFA Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy is also part of the requirements and will be adhered to during all phases of planning and implementation of the tournament.

A copy is as follows:

https://www.irishfa.com/media/58982/safeguarding-children-policy-short-2023.pdf

5. Code of Conduct

Issued to all Team Members and Officials

1. Our tournament operates in accordance with a Code of Ethics and is monitored to make sure that it complies with it. You must play your part, however, to encourage your team,

your team officials and your supporters to behave in a manner reflecting sportsmanship and friendship thus helping to ensure that "Football is fun".

2. Before every match in the tournament, team captains normally exchange a pennant or small souvenir.
3. In the SuperCupNI, teams formally line up before each game and as players are announced they each in turn raise their arm for identification purposes. After both teams and officials have been officially announced, the team to the referee's left will move in single file towards the team on the referee's right (the stationary team) and shake hands with each member of the opposition. A handshake is a gesture of friendship and that is what the Tournament is all about. Any team which does not come in that spirit will not be accepted in future tournaments.
4. Players should be told that the referee's decision (whether right or wrong) should be accepted without question or comment.
5. Team officials should support the referee at all times and never question his decision publicly or undermine his authority.
6. Team supporters should not adopt an aggressive attitude towards the match officials or the opposing team's officials and players.
7. The tournament has rules approved by the National Football Association and FIFA. These rules must be obeyed but if you have a disagreement there is a complaints procedure which you should use and accept the decisions subsequently made.
8. Encourage sportsmanship. Try to ensure that, after the tournament, your team's reputation will have been maintained and enhanced.
9. Each nation has different interpretations and emphasis on aspects of the game. Explain to your players these facts of football life. Respect each other's differences and learn from the experience of playing against each other.
10. The Organising Committee wish to inform all teams that underage drinking (i.e., under 18 years of age) is an offence, and any offenders who get involved in irresponsible behaviour may put their continued participation in the Tournament at risk. We print an extract from the (The NI Licensing Order 1996) Liquor Laws:

"Section 62(2) – a minor shall not –

(a) purchase intoxicating liquor, or

(b) consume intoxicating liquor in any place or premises."

11. Acceptance of applications from teams for future Tournaments will be determined by the Organising Committee and past records, including discipline both on and off the field, will be taken into consideration in the selection procedure.
12. Finally, break down the barriers, usually of shyness, language, or dialect. Talk and socialise with each other. You will soon learn that we all share a love of football and a concern for young players. Let us pass this on to the next generation.

For further information see:

https://www.safeguardingni.org/about

https://www.irishfa.com/media/45864/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-policy-and-procedures-for-affiliated-football-2023.pdf

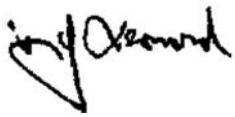
https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/regional-child-protection-procedures

https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/co-operating-safeguard-children-and-young-people-northern-ireland

This policy is reviewed regularly and updated annually or as and when required.

This policy was implemented on: .....21st May 2024...

This policy was last reviewed on: ...January 2026.....

Signed: 

Dated: 02/02/2026

NSPCC helpline: 0808 800 5000

Childline: 0800 1111

Child exploitation online (CEOP): www.ceop.gov.uk

Police Service Northern Ireland: 112 or 101

Appendix 1

SuperCupNI Lost/Found Child Policy

At each Tournament venue the following should be considered in respect of any lost/found children or vulnerable adults:

- State where the agreed collection point(s) is/are.
- State that the collection point is where staff should take lost children/vulnerable adults, and direct parents/carers of lost children/vulnerable adults.
- Ensure an entry is made on the Incident Report Form of the process for setting up the collection point on day(s) of the tournament.

In the event of a child or vulnerable person being reported missing or being located by staff or another member of the public the following actions should be considered:

A lost child procedure should cover the following aspects for staff/volunteers:

- The parent/carer should be reassured that a procedure exists, and action is going to be taken immediately.
- SHUT DOWN exits and where possible ensure no one leaves the site.
- The member of staff should ask for as much information about the child as possible. For example, name, age, sex, ethnic origin, hair colour, build, clothing, location last seen and who else they may be with.
- The parent/carer should be encouraged to return to the collection point regularly if they choose to continue to search for their child… in case the child is found.
- A search should then be initiated, utilising the methods of communication chosen in advance, e.g., PA announcement, radios, mobile phones, text messaging etc. **DO NOT announce details of the missing child or vulnerable person via the PA system** – the PA can be used to alert staff of the situation and await further instructions or to come to the collection point so they can be briefed in person.
- It is a good idea to operate a code system for any communications that might be overheard so that details of the child's or parent's names are not divulged.
- If the child is not found, the matter should be escalated to arrange a complete search of the site utilising all security and staff.
- If the person is not located within 15 minutes or if you are concerned inform Police immediately.

When a child is found without their parent/carer

Staff should cover the following aspects:

- When a child appears to be lost, they should be approached and asked if they know where their parent/carer is.

- If they are lost or have been separated from their parent/carer and don't know where that person is, they should be led to the collection point and encouraged to stay there whilst staff try to locate the adult.
- During this time, they should be gently asked for as much information as possible. This should include:

    1. Their Name
    2. Who they are with
    3. Where they last saw their parent/carer
    4. What their parent/carer looks like and are wearing

- If the child is brought to the collection point by another person, that person should be asked for as much information as possible too.
- A search should then be initiated. This will depend on the technology available and what has been agreed in advance, but may include the following:

    1. Radio communication – ensure all communications are secure before making any announcement on the radio.
    2. An announcement made via a PA system – DO NOT describe or name the child on the PA – just inform the public that a person has been found and is at the collection point.
    3. Mobile phones – use of a WhatsApp group for staff on duty maybe a helpful way to circulate information but ensure that ONLY staff on duty can access the information.
    4. Word of mouth – speak to staff and start to initiate search protocols.

- It is a good idea to operate a code system for any communication that might be overheard so that details of the child's or parent's names are not divulged. Discuss this with staff at your site and ensure everyone is aware of the system.
- Details should be reported to the Pitch Supervisor immediately and actions set out of how to escalate the matter if the child is not reunited with their parent/carer within 15 minutes.
- Consider a report of the matter to the police, if circumstances dictate it and you are concerned, take direction from event control if you are unsure.
- Complete the Incident Report Form and inform the Tournament DSCO and Tournament HQ.

Appendix 2

Safeguarding Agreement

The organisers of the SuperCupNI wish to ensure safeguarding and protection of individuals data complies with the law in Northern Ireland.

The organisers will take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all participants and staff who are successful in their application to take part in the tournament is managed in accordance with local guidelines and directives.

The organisers will require any applicants to attach their club/team current safeguarding policy to this signed form.

The organisers will require any applicants to confirm they have a club/team Safeguarding Officer who can provide advice and guidance to their responsible person at the tournament.

The organisers recommend that there is a minimum of 1 responsible person to every 6 children and young persons or vulnerable adults and **require** a minimum of 1 responsible person to every 8 children and young persons, or vulnerable adults who attend the tournament.

In order that the tournament can promote and report details of the event there may be photographs and video footage taken for event promotional purposes and by third party companies to sell as souvenirs. Should you wish to exclude any persons under the age of eighteen from being included in any of these photographs or videos, please inform us in writing.

Please indicate in the tables below whether you agree to the data as stated being collected, used, or shared in the format as outlined.

Details of information/images to be collated or used	Yes/No
Individual or group Photographs (in club kit or other appropriate clothing)	
Name of player/participant	
Shirt Number	

Details of where data will be used or shared	Yes/No
Tournament publications/programmes	
Match Reports	
Football NI registration system	
Match Cards	

Live stream TV	

Please note* No details will be shared of any person(s) who tick NO and no inference will be drawn from any person(s) who do not wish to share their data. *

Please indicate below the details of anyone who does not wish to have their information or data as outlined above being included in the publications or programmes as stated and indicate how you would wish them to be identified in the stated publications or programmes e.g. by shirt number.

Name	How they wish to be identified

(please use additional pages as required)

Please tick or sign as required Below:

Details to be confirmed or acknowledged	Tick or comment as appropriate
Safeguarding Policy attached	
Club has a Safeguarding Officer	
Club/Team has allocated sufficient responsible persons with the team	
Club/Team has read, accepted, and acknowledged the terms of the SCNI Tournament Safeguarding Policy	

Signed on behalf of the Team.

Name:

Role in Team:

Signed:

Date:

APPENDIX 3

Tournament Privacy Policy

Information that you provide us, this includes information provided at the time of registering or being contacted by employees or volunteers regarding The SuperCupNI are kept on record:
i) Data collect by us is used to send you information and registration details regarding tournaments, or provide you with updates to these tournaments.
ii) To send you details of any of our related products/services
iii) We may also use your data, or permit selected third parties to use your data, to provide you with information about goods and services which may be of interest to you and we or they may contact you about these by e-mail, post or telephone.

You can ask us if we are keeping any personal data about you, and you can also request to receive a copy of that personal data. At any time, you may request that we delete or correct your personal information, please contact samgamble@supercupni.com

Appendix 4

Code of ethics

The Budget Energy SuperCupNI is more than just a football tournament. Since its establishment, the tournament has united thousands of young people from all four corners of the globe. The Tournament Management Team have adopted this code of ethics for everyone involved in the tournament including players, officials/coaches, referees, volunteers and spectators.

Adoption of the code of ethics is accepted once teams confirm their participation at the tournament in writing via email, once their letter of offer to compete is returned. This response also relates to the teams competing in the tournament agreeing to all tournament rules, policies and procedures.

This code of ethics has been adopted in compliance with 'Article 4' of the FIFA Statutes.

"Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, religion, political opinion or wealth, birth or sexual orientation is strictly prohibited."

- Football is for all, and players, coaches and officials should know and abide by the Laws, rules and spirit of the game and the competition.
- All teams should accept success and failure, victory and defeat equally.
- All teams should show respect towards their opponents, irrespective of the result.
- All teams will never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, abusive or discriminatory language or behaviour.
- All teams should accept the decision of the match officials and show due respect to the match officials at all times.
- Players should give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance at all times.
- All teams should set a positive example for others, particularly younger spectators.
- All teams should make every effort to be consistent with Fair Play and play within the laws of the game to help their team achieved their desired result.
- All teams should shake hands with their opponents and match day officials at the conclusion of the game.
- All teams should respect all facilities they avail of and benefit from during their time at the tournament and should leave facilities as they found them.

The Tournament Management Team disciplinary sub-group will fully investigate any alleged breach of this code and may apply sanctions or take disciplinary action if any person or team have been found to have breached this code of ethics.

Name and role	
Club/organisation	
Date	