



SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1. Policy Statement

The East Africa International Cup is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, respectful, and enjoyable environment for every child participating in the tournament.

The welfare, safety, dignity, and rights of children are our highest priority. We believe that every child has the right to participate in football free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, discrimination, bullying, harassment, and any form of violence.

Everyone involved in the tournament including organizers, staff, volunteers, coaches, team officials, referees, parents, guardians, spectators, media personnel, partners, and service providers shares responsibility for safeguarding children.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Protect all children participating in the tournament.
- Promote safe football environments.
- Prevent abuse and exploitation.
- Establish clear reporting procedures.
- Ensure concerns are handled promptly and confidentially.
- Promote respect, equality, and inclusion.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Tournament Organizing Committee
- Tournament staff
- Volunteers
- Referees
- Coaches
- Team Managers
- Team Officials
- Medical Personnel
- Scouts
- Photographers
- Media Representatives
- Sponsors and Partners

- Parents and Guardians
- Spectators
- All registered players

This policy applies throughout the tournament, including:

- Match venues
- Training grounds
- Accommodation
- Transportation
- Official events
- Online platforms
- Social media activities connected to the tournament

4. Definition of a Child

For the purpose of this policy, a child is any person under the age of 18 years.

5. Guiding Principles

The East Africa International Cup is committed to:

- Putting children first.
- Respecting every child's dignity.
- Promoting equality and inclusion.
- Preventing harm before it occurs.
- Listening to children's concerns.
- Acting immediately when concerns arise.
- Maintaining confidentiality.
- Working with relevant authorities where necessary.

6. Code of Conduct

Everyone involved in the tournament shall:

- Treat every child with dignity and respect.
- Promote fair play and good sportsmanship.
- Use appropriate language at all times.
- Encourage positive behavior.
- Respect cultural diversity.
- Report safeguarding concerns immediately.
- Follow tournament safeguarding procedures.

No individual shall:

- Physically abuse a child.
- Emotionally abuse or humiliate a child.

- Sexually exploit or abuse a child.
- Bully or intimidate children.
- Use discriminatory language.
- Engage in inappropriate relationships with children.
- Use alcohol or drugs while responsible for children.
- Take children away from tournament activities without proper authorization.
- Share inappropriate images or messages with children.

7. Coaches and Team Officials

Every coach and official must:

- Prioritize player welfare over winning.
- Provide appropriate supervision.
- Avoid one-to-one situations in isolated areas whenever possible.
- Never use physical punishment.
- Never use degrading language.
- Encourage positive development.
- Respect medical decisions.
- Ensure players are adequately hydrated and rested.

8. Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians are expected to:

- Support positive behavior.
- Respect match officials.
- Avoid abusive language.
- Encourage fair play.
- Respect safeguarding procedures.
- Report concerns immediately.

9. Spectators

Spectators must:

- Respect players.
- Respect referees.
- Respect coaches.
- Avoid offensive language.
- Avoid discriminatory behavior.
- Never enter restricted playing areas.
- Never harass children.

Failure to comply may result in removal from the venue.

10. Photography and Media

Photographs and videos may only be taken for legitimate purposes.

Media personnel and photographers shall:

- Respect children's privacy.
- Avoid inappropriate images.
- Never identify vulnerable children unnecessarily.
- Obtain appropriate permissions where required.
- Use images respectfully.

The tournament reserves the right to remove any photographer or media representative acting inappropriately.

11. Online Safety

Participants must:

- Use respectful communication online.
- Avoid cyberbullying.
- Avoid sharing harmful content.
- Respect privacy.
- Report online abuse immediately.

12. Medical Welfare

The tournament will:

- Provide first aid services.
- Ensure emergency medical support is available.
- Maintain emergency response procedures.
- Record injuries.
- Refer serious cases to appropriate medical facilities.

13. Anti-Discrimination

The tournament promotes equal opportunities regardless of:

- Nationality
- Gender
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Language
- Religion
- Social background

Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.

14. Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

Anyone who witnesses or suspects abuse must report it immediately to the Tournament Safeguarding Officer.

Reports should include:

- Date
- Time
- Location
- Individuals involved
- Description of the incident
- Witnesses (if any)

All reports will be treated confidentially.

15. Investigation Procedure

Upon receiving a safeguarding concern, the Organizing Committee will:

1. Record the report.
2. Ensure the child's immediate safety.
3. Notify the Tournament Safeguarding Officer.
4. Conduct a preliminary assessment.
5. Refer serious matters to the appropriate child protection or law enforcement authorities where required.
6. Cooperate fully with any official investigations.

16. Confidentiality

All safeguarding information will be handled confidentially.

Information will only be shared with individuals who need it to protect the child or comply with legal obligations.

17. Breaches of this Policy

Anyone found to have breached this policy may face one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Removal from the venue
- Suspension
- Disqualification
- Revocation of accreditation
- Referral to relevant authorities
- Lifetime ban from the tournament where appropriate

18. Safeguarding Officer

The Tournament Organizing Committee shall appoint a Tournament Safeguarding Officer responsible for:

- Receiving safeguarding reports.
- Responding to concerns.
- Maintaining confidential records.
- Providing safeguarding guidance.
- Liaising with relevant authorities where necessary.
- Promoting awareness throughout the tournament.

19. Review

This Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy will be reviewed annually and updated whenever necessary to reflect best practices and legal requirements.

Declaration

The East Africa International Cup Organizing Committee is committed to ensuring that every child participating in the tournament enjoys football in a safe, respectful, and supportive environment. Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone, and all participants are expected to uphold the standards outlined in this policy.

Approved by:

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