



## **Policy Statement on the Protection of Vulnerable Adults/ Adults at Risk**

This policy applies to anyone aged 18 or over who has a physical or learning disability or mental illness which causes them to be dependent on others for physical care and assistance and/or who may have difficulty communicating their needs and wishes.

It is the policy of the AFL Scotland to safeguard vulnerable adults taking part in sport from physical, sexual or emotional harm. AFL Scotland will take all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, vulnerable adults participating in AFL Scotland activities do so in a safe environment. Everyone, whatever their age, gender, disability, culture, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, social status or sexual identity, has a right to protection from abuse.

AFL Scotland actively seeks to:

- Create a safe and welcoming environment where participants can have fun and develop their skills and confidence.
- Support and encourage affiliated clubs and associations to implement similar policies.
- Recognise that safeguarding vulnerable adults is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work directly with them.
- Ensure that AFL Scotland organised training and events are run to the highest possible safety standards.
- Be prepared to review its ways of working to incorporate best practice.

We will:

- Treat all participants with respect and celebrate their achievements.
- Carefully recruit and select all employees, contractors and volunteers.
- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all complaints and concerns about poor practice or suspected or actual abuse.

This policy relates to all employees, contractors and volunteers who work with vulnerable adults in the course of their AFL Scotland duties. It will be kept under periodic review.

All relevant concerns, allegations, complaints and their outcome should be notified to the President or secretary of AFL Scotland.