



***Colchester United Football Club
Complaints Policy 2023-24***

This policy has been created by Lewis Robertson

Colchester United Football Club, Head of Safeguarding

August 2023

Complaints Policy

1. Policy Statement

Colchester United Football Club welcomes comments and complaints from all members of the Club community and from the general public. We use this process to improve our services for stakeholders, fans and the wider community in which we exist.

Our club is committed to the continuous improvement of the services it provides. We recognise that, occasionally, mistakes will be made or the service offered will not meet an individual's requirements or expectations. For these reasons it is club policy that all complaints should be:

1.1 Treated seriously and in an open manner

1.2 Acknowledged immediately, preferably in writing

1.3 Investigated

1.4 Resolved, wherever that is reasonably practicable, within no longer than 13 working weeks

1.5 Used as feedback to improve the service which the Club offers

No complainant bringing a complaint under this procedure will be treated less favourably by any member of staff. If there is evidence to the contrary, the member of staff may be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

2. Scope

The policy applies to all members of the Club community but does not replace procedures for, staff grievances and disciplinary action: those procedures should be used where appropriate.

3. Legislation

The Human Rights Act 1998 applies to the operation of this policy.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 All Staff at Colchester United Football Club have a responsibility for receiving complaints, treating them seriously and dealing with them promptly and courteously in accordance with the procedure set out below.

4.2 Senior Managers have a responsibility for resolving a complaint, and leading or contributing to an investigation into a complaint when this is considered appropriate.

4.3 The Chief Executive is responsible for resolving complaints which have not been resolved during the previous two stages. The decision made by the Chief Executive is final.

4.4 The Governing Board is responsible for ensuring that the complaints policy and procedure are operating effectively and may become directly involved if a complaint is directed against the Chief Executive or members of the governing body.

5. Actions to Implement and Develop Policy

5.1. Stage One

Colchester United Football Club expects complaints to be made informally to a member of staff in the first instance. Where this is not possible or does not result in satisfactory resolution, the complaint should be submitted in writing to the relevant club manager.

The Club usually expects complaints to be made by the person concerned. However it will consider complaints made by a parent or advocate.

Anonymous complaints cannot be investigated, unless they are assessed as being of a Safeguarding nature.

All comments/complaints will be forwarded to Colchester United Football Club, who will acknowledge receipt within one working week. The Club will then forward to the relevant Club manager.

5.2. Stage two

The relevant Club manager will respond in writing within one working week, explaining what has happened as a result of the complaint. Where this involves a member of staff, specific detail of action taken will not be made available. This is to ensure that our employees are afforded appropriate dignity at work.

If a complaint is made in relation to a member of staff and is assessed as having a Safeguarding element, then the relevant Club manager will notify the club's Head of Safeguarding, who will in turn contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for Essex and other statutory agencies, where required to do so. More information about the role of the LADO can be found in the link below:

<https://national-lado-network.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Essex-LADO-information-leaflet-2021.pdf>

If the complaint requires further investigation that cannot be carried out within the week, either internally or externally, the manager shall keep the complainant informed and where possible, specify a date when a response can be given.

5.3. Stage three

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the relevant manager's response then the complaint will be forwarded to a member of the Club Senior Management resolve.

The senior manager will acknowledge receipt of the complaint within two working weeks and a final reply will be completed within 8 working weeks to allow time for any formal investigations to take place.

5.4. Stage four (final internal stage)

If the complainant is still dissatisfied with the response then the matter will be referred to the Colchester United Football Club Chief Executive. The Chief Executive will respond within three weeks. The Chief Executive's decision is final.

The total comments/complaints procedure should be finalised in no more than 13 working weeks unless there are exceptional circumstances in which case the complainant will be kept informed of progress.

5.5. Complaints against the Chief Executive or Members of the Board of Directors

Complaints against the Chief Executive should be addressed to the Chairmain of the Club.

6. Monitoring & Evaluation

6.1. The Club will maintain a confidential record of complaints dealt with to feed into quality improvement processes. The Club will maintain a record of all complaints, appeals and outcomes and produce an annual report for analysis by the Board.

Review

The club shall review this Policy on an annual basis prior to the start of the new football season, and following a major incident, organisational or legislative change.

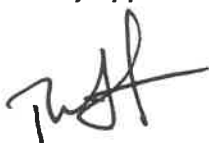
Policy Created by:



Lewis Robertson (Colchester United Head of Safeguarding)

August 2023

Policy Approved by:



Tim Waddington (Senior Safeguarding Manager)

On behalf of Colchester United Football Club Board of Directors

August 2023

Next Review – June 2024