

Safeguarding in Open Age Football

February 2022



KEY QUESTION

The FA requirements apply to any open age team who have 16/17 year old players, or are likely to sign 16/17 year old players

Everyone working with Under 18s, whether in youth or open-age adult football, is subject to the FA's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and the underpinning legislative guidance.

Who needs a DBS?

In any team where there are, or are likely to be, 16 or 17 year old players, all coaches/assistant coaches, managers/assistant managers, first aiders and physios will require an in-date accepted DBS check showing on the Whole Game System

EVEN IF THERE IS ONLY ONE 16/17 YEAR OLD PLAYER IN THE SQUAD

Players in Open-Age team DO NOT need a DBS as they do not have a regulated role in football

Any coach that has an FA DBS showing as accepted on WGS from a role in youth football will not need a second DBS check



How does a club apply for a DBS check?

- Youth football clubs have a Club Welfare Officer – you could ask any affiliated youth CWO to oversee safeguarding in your adult team. A suitably qualified CWO could then process DBS checks for any relevant individuals
- The club can register with FA Checks by emailing FAChecks@thefa.com and nominate a club official as DBS verifier. The FA Checks team will send information and guidance about the process
- For single team clubs where only 1 manager/coach will require a DBS check, Hampshire FA can assist individuals who require/meet eligibility for a Check – contact safeguarding@hampshirefa.com

What **must** clubs do?

1. Adopt and implement the FA Club Safeguarding Children Policy Template see section 1.4B <https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-11-the-complete-downloads-directory>
2. Identify coaches/teams who have or are likely to have 16/17 year old players – make sure they are listed on the WGS and have an in-date FA accepted DBS check
3. Decide who is best to act as a DBS verifier for the club:
Link up with a youth club CWO who can act as verifier OR register the Open-Age club with FAchecks@thefa.com and nominate a club official as verifier

What should clubs do?

1. Appoint a Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams) – this person will need the following:
 - In date FA DBS check
 - Complete Safeguarding Children online course
 - Complete Welfare Officer online course
 - Complete Safeguarding for Committee members course
2. Encourage all coaches and club officials to complete the free online Safeguarding for All and Safeguarding Adults courses via <https://thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications/safeguarding-courses>

How can Leagues help?

Appoint an Open-Age Adult League Safeguarding Advocate

Whose purpose is to:

1. Promote safeguarding with all registered clubs
2. Promote the FA's Safeguarding information: theFA.com
3. Ensure safeguarding is a standard item at Committee Meetings/AGM
4. Monitor data reports showing teams that register players aged 16/17 years old
5. Support clubs to identify local DBS Verifiers
6. Provide a specific point of contact for safeguarding communications from the County FA in addition to Chairs/Secretaries

LSA to complete free online safeguarding courses – Safeguarding for All and Safeguarding Adults, or the Safeguarding Children Course (£30)

How can Leagues help?

Create a safeguarding section on your website to host links to www.theFA.com safeguarding pages and relevant resources

Publish on your website/social media platforms the FA's 'Know Your Rights' leaflet for 16/17 year old players www.theFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-7-children-and-young-people-under-18s



The leaflet features a collage of images showing young football players in action. The title 'KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN FOOTBALL' is prominently displayed in a green box. The content is organized into three main sections: 'YOUR RIGHTS:', 'WHAT YOU CAN DO:', and 'HELPFUL ORGS:'. The 'YOUR RIGHTS:' section lists six rights related to safety and non-discrimination. The 'WHAT YOU CAN DO:' section provides five actionable steps for reporting concerns. The 'HELPFUL ORGS:' section lists various support organizations with their websites and helpline numbers.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN FOOTBALL

YOUR RIGHTS:

- You have the right to feel safe on and offline;
- You have the right to healthy relationships and appropriate boundaries;
- You have the right not to be bullied, harassed or intimidated;
- You have the right not to feel uncomfortable or unsafe;
- You have the right not to be discriminated against because of your age, gender, gender reassignment, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, faith, ability or disability, pregnancy and maternity.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Tell an adult you trust at home, school or college or at football;
- E-mail safeguarding@TheFA.com, or speak to a Designated Safeguarding Officer;
- Contact the NSPCC for free **0800 800 5000** or Childline **0800 1111** or visit their website for more information;
- If someone is in immediate danger dial 999 to speak to the Police;
- Set up privacy settings for your online profiles;
- Report inappropriate online behaviour to CEOP.

HELPFUL ORGS:

NSPCC: nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse
Childline: childline.org.uk Helpline: **0800 1111**
CEOP: ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting
ThinkUknow: thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus
ChildNet: childnet.com/young-people/secondary
Samaritans: samaritans.org/how-we-can-help-you
Helpline is open 24 hrs a day: **116 123**
Stonewall: stonewall.org.uk/help-advice
Stonewall Youth: youngstonewall.org.uk
YoungMinds: youngminds.org.uk

Know how to report concerns

It is not your job to decide whether or not a child or young person is being abused – however it is your responsibility to share your concerns

Ensure the immediate safety of the child – contact the police or emergency services if necessary

- Contact your Club Welfare Officer
- Contact the DSO/DDSO at the County FA – safeguarding@hampshirefa.com
- FA Safeguarding team – safeguarding.children@thefa.com
- NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

Hampshire FA Safeguarding Team

Mel Gill – Designated Safeguarding Officer

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Dean Jones – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer

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Jackie Binnington – Safeguarding Administrator

Tel: 01256 853014

Team Inbox: safeguarding@hampshirefa.com

Senior Safeguarding Lead: Neil Cassar

Board Safeguarding Champion: Ian Walkom



Useful Resources

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-11-the-complete-downloads-directory>

