

Guidance note:

Reference to Adults at Risk, in Safeguarding Codes of Conduct for Volunteers and Staff

Safeguarding adults in disability football

For the season 2018/19, the Codes of Conduct include adults at risk of harm.

Open age disability football should be safe and enjoyable for all.

However, we need to be aware that the abuse of adults can and does happen and football needs to play its part in preventing, recognising, reporting and addressing concerns, because safeguarding adults at risk is everybody's business.

An adult is someone over 18, so the safeguarding children procedures should be applied if there are any concerns about the welfare of an under-18 even if that person is playing in open age disability football.

In 2014 the term vulnerable adults was replaced by 'adult at risk'. An adult at risk is someone who is over 18 and:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs); and
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

Adults with care and support needs include people who have a condition as a result of physical, mental, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities or illnesses, substance misuse or brain injury.

There are differences between safeguarding adults and safeguarding children including:

- the rights of adults;
- types of abuse, signs and indicators;
- the involvement of the adult in safeguarding plans and actions;
- laws, guidance and football regulations.

Adults have a right to self-determination, to make their own choices and their own mistakes. Adults should be involved in and consulted about anything that concerns them.

However there are also similarities and these include reporting all safeguarding concerns to the CFA Designated Safeguarding Officer or in their absence to their deputies. This is the case even when the adult does not wish for a report to be made. Reassure the adult that their wishes will be taken into account but that you have a duty to report.

The County DSO can seek help and advice from The FA Safeguarding Team.

The code of conduct content applies to children and young people and adults at risk in disability football. Further resources on safeguarding adults will be available via the safeguarding section of The FA website.

