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**APPENDIX 26**

**GUIDANCE**

**Safeguarding Communication to Under-18**

**Registered Referees**

County FAs should use the template text overleaf and communicate this to both the under-18 match official and their parent/carer, when these match officials are appointed to fixtures directly managed by the County FA.

This template can also be shared with leagues as an example of safer working practice.

Some County FAs have provided a business-size card for match officials to carry whilst refereeing, reminding them of relevant contact information including RDO/DSO contacts, as well as having a space for them to insert an emergency contact number.

County FAs should also share the recently disseminated Match Officials Changing Room Procedures from The FA Refereeing Department, document available [**her**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/file/3FFECCBB-7988-4447-A728-C37BF50204CE?tenantId=45c92590-ccc6-46f9-80ff-9fc8d9edde39&fileType=pdf&objectUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fenglishfa.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FCFARefereeing%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FGuidance%2F%27Other%27%2FMatch%20Officials%20Changing%20Room%20Procedures.pdf&baseUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fenglishfa.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FCFARefereeing&serviceName=teams&threadId=19%3A1614ce2f31fd409e9300325468604537%40thread.skype&groupId=6c6726ce-e1bc-4e99-bdac-a91de262f8f6)**e.**

**Covid-19**

County FAs should ensure that all under-18 referees and their parents/carers are sent or as a minimum, signposted to the relevant Covid-19 guidance e.g. the restarting of competitive

grassroots football for referees. Please explicitly ask them to read this information and follow the guidance for under-18s

This guidance can be found [**here**](https://teams.microsoft.com/_%23/files/General?threadId=19%3A1614ce2f31fd409e9300325468604537%40thread.skype&ctx=channel&context=General&rootfolder=%252Fsites%252FCFARefereeing%252FShared%2520Documents%252FGeneral).

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**Under-18 referees – have fun and keep safe**

**Dear Referee,**

**Liverpool County FA wants to ensure you are aware of the support you can access should you have any concerns over your safety and welfare while carrying out your refereeing duties. Please read the information below in full and keep it and the contact details safe in case you need them.**

It is important to remember that the vast majority of football is played in safe, friendly and inclusive environments where everyone can enjoy taking part. However, we appreciate that there may be occasions when you would like additional help and support.

**Concerned about something you’ve seen or heard?**

Tell an adult you trust (e.g. this could be a parent, coach, or another referee) if you are concerned about something you have seen or heard, if something doesn’t feel right, or if you are worried about comments someone has made to, or about, you via text or social media.

It’s really important that if you are concerned about your own safety, or the safety of another child or young person, that you let the County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer or the County FA Referee Development Officer know as soon as possible to ensure we can support you.

If you or someone else is in immediate risk of harm, then this should be reported to the police via **101** or **999** phone numbers.

You can also contact Childline for advice and support on tel. **0800 11 11** or go online to:

[**childline.org.uk/get-support/**](http://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/).

**Disciplinary Matters**

It’s really important that all matchday disciplinary matters are reported to the

Liverpool FA as soon as possible. In most cases this is a simple and speedy process that can be completed online. However, should you need assistance in compiling a report contact Natasha Wilson, the County FA’s Referee Development Officer.

In the unlikely event of a very serious disciplinary matter, you may wish to speak to somebody about it. Our Referee Development Officer or Designated Safeguarding Officer can be contacted for advice and support.

**Feel threatened?**

In the unlikely event you feel threatened whilst refereeing; your own safety must be your priority. Find a supportive adult and ensure you can leave the venue safely. Avoid doing or saying anything that might make things worse. At the first opportunity please report these events to our Disciplinary and Designated Safeguarding Officer department. Our Referee Development Officer will contact you when he/she has been informed about the incident.

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**Attending a disciplinary hearing**

During the course of your refereeing career you may need to attend a disciplinary hearing to give evidence. Don’t worry about this as you will be offered guidance and support by a member of the Discipline team. If you are under 18 we take your age into account and ensure the environment is as supportive as possible. Referees under 18 can be accompanied by a parent/ carer or colleague. If they prefer, our Referee Development Officer or Designated Safeguarding Officer can be on hand to offer this assistance.

**Inclusion**

If you have a disability or impairment or believe there are restrictions in place preventing you from fully accessing and enjoying refereeing then please inform us. Football is inclusive and that applies to refereeing too. If you would like to chat about this please contact the County FA Referee Development Officer or Designated Safeguarding Officer and we can help to remove the barriers to your full participation.

**Covid-19**

Covid-19 may continue to have impacts in the 2021/22 season. If this is the case, all FA guidance on this will be issued via TheFA.com or directly to registered referees.

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**CONTACT NAME**

**TITLE**

**EMAIL/TELEPHONE**

Natasha Wilson

Referee Development Officer/Manager

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