

**KEEPING FOOTBALL AND THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND IT SAFE**

At Liverpool County FA we believe that every referee has a responsibility to ensure that all participants that they come into contact with have the same protection regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity and should be able to participate within football in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Our collective role is to create a fun and safe experience for all children and other vulnerable people within football and where concerns come to light, whether they are about someone in football or in the person’s wider life, then to report these concerns to the appropriate authorities.

**Training & Qualifications**

All referees will undertake safeguarding training and possess in-date and valid FA criminal records check. We work hard to make sure referees continue to promote the importance of safeguarding.

**WHAT WE DO TO KEEP YOU SAFE**

All referees, coaches, mentors and volunteers who are in a role that involves direct contact with children or vulnerable people are subject to a criminal records check. Criminal records checks are completed every three years and failure to comply will lead to suspensions.

**OUR PROMISE TO YOU**

Here at Liverpool County FA we put the safety and enjoyment of our referees at the forefront of everything we do. We want all of our referees to feel supported throughout their referee career.

Liverpool County FA, as part of your continuous support, will ensure that you meet the highest of standards in terms of safeguarding and administration. This safeguarding policy will be outlined during every referee course and online for all referees on the Liverpool County FA website.

At Liverpool County FA we expect our referees to uphold the professional standards that have been set out on the referee course. This includes, but is not limited to; officiating impartially and unwavering commitment on our local leagues, County Cups and Academy games.

**CONCERNED ABOUT SOMETHING YOU HAVE SEEN OR HEARD?**

You can report something that you have witnessed or heard to the Designated Safeguarding Officer, Gordon Johnson, the Referee Development manager, david Horlick, or externally to the NSPCC, the FA Safeguarding Team, Childline, Child Exploitation & Online Protection or the Police. Please see the contact list at the foot of this document.

**DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

At times during your refereeing career you may have to attend disciplinary hearings. Prior to this taking place you will receive a phone call from either Mark Lloyd or Wendy Brown in our Football Services team or from David Horlick our Referee Development Manager. This phone call will offer you the opportunity to discuss any concerns or queries you have regarding the hearing.

It is really important that all match day disciplinary matters are reported to Liverpool County FA within 48 hours of the game finishing. In most cases it is a simple and speedy procedure which can be completed online. However, should you need assistance when reporting your discipline you can contact either Mark Lloyd from the football services team or david Horlick our Referee Development Manager for assistance.

**FEEL THREATENED**

In the unlikely event you ever feel threatened whilst refereeing; your own safety must be your first priority. Find a supportive adult and ensure that you can leave the venue safely. Avoid doing or saying anything that may make the situation worse. At the first opportunity you must report these events to our Discipline Governance and Referee Departments. Our Referee development manager, David Horlick, will contact you as soon as he has been informed about the incident.

**KEY CONTACTS**

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| **Gordon Johnson**Designated Safeguarding OfficerGordon.johnson@liverpoolfa.com0151 523 4488 ext 114 | **NSPCC**[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)0808 800 5000 |
| **David Horlick**Referee Development ManagerDavid.horlick@liverpoolfa.com0151 523 4488 ext 102 | **ChildLine**[www.childline.org.uk/get-support](http://www.childline.org.uk/get-support)0800 1111 |
| **Mark Lloyd**Discipline Dept Football Services OfficerMark.lloyd@liverpoolfa.com0151 523 4488 ext 100 | **The FA Safeguarding Team**safeguarding@thefa.com0800 169 1863 |
|  | **Child Exploitation & Protection Online**www.ceop.police.uk |