

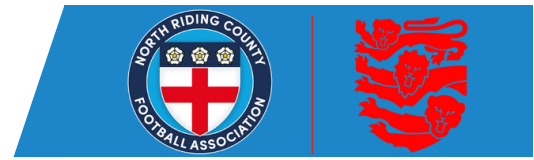


Safeguarding in Open Age Football

Requirements for clubs
and leagues



**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**



LEAGUES



Adult leagues with open age teams where 16/17 year old players are registered are now asked to identify a league member who can take on the role of League Safeguarding Advocate.

The purpose of this role is to:

- Proactively promote Safeguarding in all registered clubs
- Adopt and adhere to the Affiliated Football Safeguarding Children Policy [here](#) (Section1 - download Guidance Notes: 1.4 Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures Club Template).
- Ensure Safeguarding is a standard item at Committee meetings/AGM's
- Monitor league and identify teams that register 16/17 year olds
- Support clubs to apply for DBS for relevant personnel and become a County verifier.
- Provide safeguarding information for 16/17-year-old players – Know Your Rights leaflet [here](#)
- Promote the FA's Safeguarding information available on TheFA.com
- Remind and encourage clubs of their responsibilities, listed on the next page.



CLUBS



Every affiliated football club that includes players under the age of 18, need to make sure that they have appropriate safeguards in place. This includes open age teams with 16/17 year olds players, so if your club has or are planning to include 16/17 year olds either on loan, sign or allow to train with your open age teams then this information is useful for you.

A DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate is required by law for people working in regular activity with u18s to ensure they are suitable. This would include all team officials: coaches, managers, assistants, first aiders, physios, helpers etc. A DBS certificate issued by the government agency then needs to be approved by the FA. (If previous convictions/charges are detailed, the certificate will need to be sent to the FA for review, in line with GDPR rules, however this does not mean the applicant is unsuitable to participate – this just means the FA need to risk assess)

Other Safeguarding requirements for football clubs are:

- Appoint a 'Club Welfare Officer (Adult Teams)' within Club Portal as point of contact and responsible for sharing key safeguarding messages throughout the club.
- All Club Welfare officers need to complete the free online [Player Welfare Course](#) - this takes a maximum of 45 minutes. We recommend all committee members and team officials to complete to raise their own awareness of player welfare and why it is important within football too.
- Ensure all team officials involved in all team are named/identified against that team on Club Portal
- Adopt and adhere to the Affiliated Football Safeguarding Children Policy [here](#) (Section1 - download Guidance Notes: 1.4 Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures Club Template).
- Issue any u18 players with FA information on knowing their rights: found [here](#)
- Support team officials with 16/17 year old players to initiate a DBS applications on WGS, if your club has youth teams and has a GBG PIN otherwise;
- Support relevant team officials to apply for a DBS through the league or County FA
- Cascade Safeguarding information on their website and promote to players and parents so that people know how to report concerns about U18 player welfare or issues

The FA have a range of information available to Clubs which is useful for recruitment and for supporting the understanding of Safeguarding within football. Open age clubs might never have had to implement this level of safe practice before so it is worth checking this information out to help shape how the club will adapt. Please click [here](#) for more information if you have any questions please get in touch support@northridingfa.com