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**North Riding CFA**

**Referee Safeguarding Policy**

**OVERVIEW**

As you know safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility and this document has been created to inform you about the role you play in keeping under 18s safe.

North Riding County FA’s Referee Department believes that every one of our match officials has the responsibility to ensure that all participants involved within the game has the same protection irrespective of their individual circumstances. This is vital in ensuring that we as match officials create a safe and enjoyable football environment for all participants.

This document contains the relevant information on what requirements you must adhere to as a registered North Riding County FA match official in respect of your Safeguarding qualification.

**YOUR ROLE AS A MATCH OFFICIAL**

As a referee, you are an impartial figure, able to see how teams and clubs manage and keep under 18s safe. You have the opportunity to demonstrate best practice on and off the field and to recognise and refer concerns. As a role model to young players and referees, this is important.

North Riding County FA match officials who are in a role that involves direct contact with children or adults at risk people will be required to have the necessary Safeguarding education as well as possessing an in-date FA DBS. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in a suspension.

**SAFEGUARDING QUALIFICATIONS**

Recognising the important role you play and the need to keep everyone up to date with safeguarding awareness, The FA is now requiring match officials to renew their safeguarding training every two years. This will

ensure referees are in the same position as, for example, coaches. Each referee has responsibility of keeping their own Safeguarding education up to date and should receive a notification of expiry in time to take action. Failure to ensure that you possess the required qualification will mean that you will not be able to officiate.

**DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

Part of your roles and responsibilities as a match official requires you to report any misconduct that occurs during your matches.

Referees are reminded that all misconduct should be submitted within 48 hours of the match being completed. This should be done via the Whole Game System and should take no longer than 10 minutes. If you require any assistance in submitting your discipline reports then please contact a member of the Referee’s Department.

It is also a possibility that at some point during your refereeing career, you may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing although these instances are few and far between.

Should you be required to attend a disciplinary hearing then you will be contacted by a County staff member who will support you through the process and discuss any concerns that you may have. Please note most hearings you will be asked to attend will be held on Microsoft Teams.

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

If you have either heard or witnessed something that you are concerned about, you are duty bound to report to County; to a member of the Refereeing Department or our Safeguarding Department.

Alternatively, any concerns can be reported directly to the Police, NSPCC, ChildLine, Child Exploitation & Online Protection or FA Safeguarding Team. Contact details for each of the above can be found at the bottom of this document.

DO YOU FEEL THREATENED?

As a North Riding County FA match official, your safety is our number one priority. Should you ever feel threatened whilst refereeing then please ensure that you immediately leave the venue in a safe capacity. Ideally find the help of a supportive adult who can ensure that you are safely escorted away. Avoid doing or saying anything that may make the situation worse. You should then report the incident at your earliest opportunity to both the Discipline and Referee Departments. A member of the Referee’s Department will then contact you to offer further support and guidance.

**KEY CONTACTS**

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Designated Safeguarding Officer

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**Steven Wade**

Chief Executive Officer

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**The FA Safeguarding Team**

0800 169 1863

[safeguarding@thefa.com](mailto:safeguarding@thefa.com)

**POLICE**

Immediate threat 999

Non-immediate 101

**NSPCC**

020 7825 2505 (Mon to Fri 9am–5pm)

[help@NSPCC.org.uK](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uK)

**Child Exploitation & Online Protection** [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)