

## **Under-18 Referees' Disciplinary Support**

Please refer to the 2017/18 season handbook pages and Governance on **TheFA.com**

Where referees are involved within disciplinary cases refer to The FA Handbook as referenced within 'THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES TO BE USED AT PERSONAL HEARINGS BEFORE DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS REQUESTED BY PARTICIPANTS OF CLUBS AND CLUBS DEALT WITH BY THE COUNTY FA AND OTHER AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS' (pg. 431) and the 'GUIDANCE NOTE ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WITHIN THE DISCIPLINARY PROCESS' (pg. 440, current handbook).

The FA's Judicial Services department has recently reviewed its guidance for children and young people attending disciplinary commissions. It has instructed that the following practices must followed to best protect the interest of children and young people where they are providing evidence.

1. Evidence should only be received from young people (accompanied by a responsible adult) in front of the Commission Members, Commission Secretary, participant charged and his/her representative.
2. All other occupants of a Commission be asked to leave whilst a young person is giving evidence.
3. The asking of questions would be restricted to the Chairman only.
4. At the end of the questioning the representative or participant charged would be asked whether there are any other questions that they believe should be asked of the witness.
5. If required additional questions could be put to the witness but again by the Chairman only.
6. Once all the questioning has been completed the young person would then leave the Commission room and will not be required to remain for the remainder of the hearing.