



Protection of Freedoms Act, 2012

1. Introduction

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 received Royal Assent on 1st May 2012. It contains all of the new safeguarding and vetting requirements that will affect individuals in sport and recreation organisations who have contact with children and vulnerable adults.

The legislation is now fixed and the new legal requirements are due to come into force from spring 2013, with statutory guidance being released by the Government this year.

2. Impact of the Act on sport and football

There are three significant changes that we are currently considering in relation to checking individuals that have contact with children and vulnerable adults in football. These changes are:

- Regulated Activity and which individuals must be checked legally.
- Single Disclosures being sent to individuals only.
- Continuous Updating and Portability arrangements via the Online Update Service.

3. What should football be doing now?

- Continue to run FA CRB checks for those that are eligible as normal.
- The FA will continue to refer individuals to ISA who we have removed from 'Regulated Activity' because they have harmed or pose the risk of harm to a child or a vulnerable adult.
- Recognise the need to wait for further updates and information from the Government on costs, and therein from The FA re how we will implement these requirements in football.
- Note that The FA will support CFAs, Leagues and Clubs to help them understand which individuals are legally required to be checked and what they need to do to be compliant with the law and FA regulations going forwards.

4. Government and FA Communications

Whilst the Government is running a number of road-shows to help individuals understand the new requirements, these road shows will not cover how sport and football will be implementing the requirements. Please note, these changes do not come in to effect immediately, the CRB and Government Departments anticipate they will be rolled out from spring 2013 onwards. The FA will communicate the new requirements when more information is known.

5. Actions Now

Clubs and Leagues should continue to roll out CRB checks in the usual way and take note of the information in the statement. We appreciate your support in reassuring your members that they will receive all the guidance necessary from The FA, in good time to ensure they are compliant with the legislative and regulatory changes.

**FA Equality and Child Protection Department
June 2012**