

KEEPING THE GAME SAFE



ENGLAND
FOOTBALL



SAFEGUARDING RESOURCE PACK

It's everyone's responsibility.

KEEPING FOOTBALL SAFE & ENJOYABLE

Every individual under 18 or adult at risk who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and where concerns come to light, whether they are about someone in football or the person's wider life, you **MUST** report it.

FA Rule E14 sets out that there is a duty to report any potential or actual breach of The FA Safeguarding Children or Adults at Risk Regulations.

Feeling safe = better experiences + more football = quality memories!



OPEN AGE FOOTBALL

Open age football is accessible to anyone aged 16 and above. However, 16 and 17 year-olds participating in football are legally still children and there is a responsibility to have safeguards in place if you have players of that age playing in your adult teams.

Requirements of clubs with under 18's in open age teams

- Adopt and implement The FA Club Safeguarding Children Policy
- Identify 16 and 17 year-old players and record them on the Whole Game System (WGS)
- Identify coaches, managers (including assistants) and medics of these teams and list them on WGS alongside the registered team
- Ensure all coaches, managers and medics of these teams undergo an FA Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- Provide 16 and 17 year-olds with safeguarding information, including how to report any incidents of abuse
- You should appoint a Club Welfare Officer (CWO)

Under 18's at personal hearings

- Under 18's must attend with a responsible adult, both if they are being charged or as a witness.
- This responsible adult could be a parent/carer or an official from a club, such as the Club Secretary, or the Team Manager/Coach; someone in a relevant position of authority.

Adults at Risk

The above, alongside The FA Safeguarding Adult's Policy, should also be applied with any adult who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental health issues, learning or physical disability, sensory impairment, age or illness and who is, or may be unable to take care or protect themselves against significant harm or serious exploitation.

WHAT WE DO TO KEEP YOU SAFE

Training and Qualifications

All Club and League Welfare Officers have undertaken safeguarding and welfare workshops and have a DBS certificate. We also provide FA coaching and refereeing qualifications, safeguarding children workshops and first aid courses.

We work hard to make sure staff and volunteers continue to improve through club workshops and coaching CPD.

Vetting and Supervision

All staff and volunteers who work in a role that involves regular and direct contact with children or vulnerable people are subject to a DBS check.

DBS checks are completed every three years and failure to comply will lead to suspension.



RESPONDING TO A DISCLOSURE

Guidance on how to deal with, respond and report concerns if anyone discloses a safeguarding concern to you a manner that manages and mitigates the risk of harm to participants.

Keep questions to a minimum

Let them talk, don't become an investigator, simply clarify what they have said.

Stay calm

It will help the immediate situation.

Remove them from further harm

Get to a safe place: seek medical help if required.

Make a note

Record what has been said at the time of the report or as soon as possible as after, noting the facts and not your opinion.

Reassure

Take them seriously – they have done the right thing to tell someone and it's not their fault.

Don't make promises 'not to tell'

If it is serious, you will have to tell someone who can help. However, the matter will be treated with confidentiality

Contact the Club/League Welfare Officer or County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer

If it is a serious concern, contact the police or children's services.

Remain understanding

We will try to keep you informed when possible but be aware we must act in a way that protects all those involved.

RESPECT

Clubs

It is mandatory for Charter Standard clubs to sign up and enforce the FA's Respect programme. Clubs who are not Charter Standard are advised to follow their own codes of conduct and take part in the Respect programme.

Coaches

On a matchday, coaches are expected to work with players, parents and other spectators to allow the referee to manage the game without being subjected to abuse.

Referees

Referees need to work in partnership with the clubs they officiate, in particular with the captains on the pitch when managing player behaviour.

Players

Players are asked to sign a Code of Conduct to promise to abide by a set of rules governing their behaviour as a player.

Spectators, Parents and Carers

Spectators and parents have a big responsibility as part of the Respect programme. Respect is working to eradicate touchline abuse in football, and spectators and parents can play their part by agreeing to, and signing, their club's Code of Conduct.



FOR ALL

RESPECT

See more on the Respect programme [here](#).

We only
do
positive.



WELFARE OFFICERS

Making sure everyone knows how to report concerns about the welfare of an individual who is under 18 or an adult at risk is essential. Knowing how to deal with poor practice issues is also vital.

Welfare Officers have two key roles:

- Be informed and aware of the league or club's responsibilities when running football activities with anyone under 18 years of age. For example:
 - Ensuring these responsibilities are well understood by others
 - Developing best practice processes
- Helping league and club personnel understand their duty of care towards children and young people. For example:
 - Ensuring all relevant people complete The FA's 'Safeguarding Children' programme
 - Helping to make sure trips away are organised properly
 - Managing the roll out of FA DBS checks

If you need support with Welfare Officer recruitment and training, please contact the Amateur FA on safeguarding@amateur-fa.com



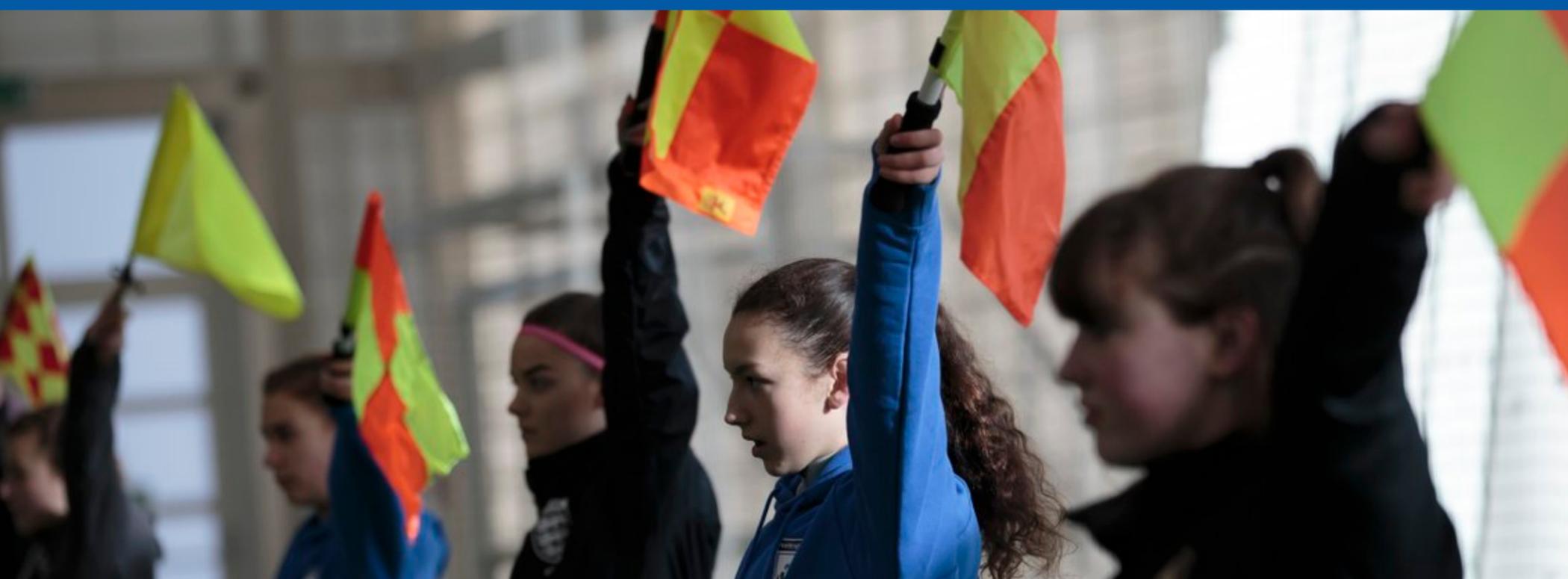
SAFEGUARDING FOR REFEREES

As part of the Amateur FA's initiative to support our young match officials, we send out yellow armbands to all our under 18 match officials.

The aim of this initiative is to remind coaches, players and spectators that these match officials are still children and therefore are subject to the children's safeguarding legislation.

The Amateur FA are passionate about supporting and retaining the next generation of match officials and we hope that all of our clubs, volunteers, parents and spectators will join us in making the environment in which they officiate a positive one for all. If you have an issue with a young referee please report this to your County FA rather than approaching the referee directly.

If you are a young referee and have experienced abuse please contact our Referee Development Officer and Designated Safeguarding Officer on: referees@amateur-fa.com / safeguarding@amateur-fa.com



SAFEGUARDING COURSES

Safeguarding Children Workshop

Awarded by The FA, this course provides club representatives, coaches, referees and volunteers with an awareness of best practice in safeguarding children in football. The course supports The FA's strategic goal to raise standards across the game. Discover more and enrol [here](#).

Welfare Officer Workshop

Awarded by The FA, this course is designed to explore the role of a grassroots football club Welfare Officer. This three-hour workshop is mandatory for anyone taking on the role of Welfare Officer for their grassroots club or league. Discover more and enrol [here](#).

Safeguarding For Committee Members

It is mandatory for the main club officials: Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, to complete the online Safeguarding for Committee Members workshop. The course is free of charge and should take no longer than 40 minutes to complete and will need renewing every 3 years. Discover more and enrol [here](#).

SAFEGUARDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Download:

- [Safeguarding Adult's Policy](#)
- [Safeguarding Children's Policy](#)



WHO TO REPORT SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS TO

AMATEUR FA DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (DSO)

- Report information to the DSO on:
 - 07904 649876 or 020 8733 2613
 - safeguarding@amateur-fa.com

AMATEUR FA SENIOR SAFEGUARDING LEAD

- If the DSO is not available refer your concern to the Senior Safeguarding Lead on:
 - 020 8733 2613
 - jason.kilby@amateur-fa.com

AMATEUR FA DEPUTY SENIOR SAFEGUARDING LEADS

- 020 8733 2613
- melanie.armstrong@amateur-fa.com or
- james.tierney@amateur-fa.com

AMATEUR FA DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

- 020 8733 2613 / 07725737834
- daryl.ann@amateur-fa.com or samantha.brown@amateur-fa.com

EXTERNAL DEPUTY SENIOR SAFEGUARDING LEAD

- If none of the Amateur FA staff are available, please contact Leigh O'Connor (Middlesex FA CEO) on:
 - 020 8515 1925 or 07956 953085
 - leigh.oconnor@middlesexfa.com

If none of the above are available, please speak to the FA Safeguarding Team on 0800 083 5902 or safeguarding@thefa.com

THE FA'S WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Whistleblowing can be used as an early warning system or when it's recognised that appropriate actions have not been taken. It is about revealing and raising concerns over misconduct or malpractice within an organisation or within an independent structure associated with it.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague can also use whistleblowing by calling 0800 169 1863 and asking for The FA's Safeguarding team, or via email on safeguarding@TheFA.com

LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICERS

If there is an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer, you can contact our Designated Safeguarding Officer on safeguarding@amatuer-fa.com. The relevant Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will then look into the allegation.



OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS



NSPCC

Call: 0808 800 5000

Website: www.nspcc.org.uk



CHILDLINE

Call: 0800 1111

Website: www.childline.org.uk



MIND

Website: www.mind.org.uk



CALM

Website: www.thecalmzone.net



SUPPORTLINE

Website: www.supportline.org.uk



THE ANN CRAFT TRUST

Website: www.anncrafttrust.org