

# GUIDANCE: ADULT CLUBS WITH PLAYERS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

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The Amateur FA is aware there are many 16 and 17 year olds looking to play in Open Age Football. This is a fantastic opportunity for these young players to progress and be challenged both technically and physically, however officials, managers and players must also recognise that these young players are still minors.

There are many ways that a club can ensure these young players are kept safe whilst enjoying football:

- Carry out an FA DBS check for the relevant roles i.e. club welfare officer, coach and first aider.
- Appoint a Club Welfare Officer and ensure U18s know who is in the role.
- The Manager/Coach should speak with any U18 players about their expectations of joining the team including playing time and their role within the team.
- Under 18 players should be given the option to change separately from the other players if they feel uncomfortable. Another option is for them to arrive and leave in their kit. This also includes giving the option of showering separately from other players. If separate shower facilities are not available this may mean allowing any under 18's to shower before other players.
- Inform other members of the team of any players who are under 18 and that they should be encouraged to be mindful of their age.
- The team captain should be encouraged to mentor any under 18 players throughout the season.
- Consideration should be given to the transport arrangements for under 18 players for home and away matches.
- Prior to a match the Manager/Coach should make the match official aware there are under 18's in the squad. If possible this should also be communicated the opposition team.
- Any under 18 players should be safeguarded at all times. It is important to ensure that during matches they are not subjected to verbal or physical abuse by opposing players trying to intimidate them.
- Under no circumstances should you allow demeaning initiation (hazing) rituals.



**For further information or guidance on  
Safeguarding Children & Young People in football please contact:**

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