

Personal Hearing Procedures involving Young People

The Disciplinary Sub Committee has recently approved a change of procedure to be adopted in respect to Young People (Under 18's) within Youth Football giving evidence at Disciplinary Commissions.

This paper will outline the procedures that County Associations must adopt at Personal Hearings when minors (Under 18) are involved, whether it is the Participant charged, Participant witnesses or County witnesses, including match officials.

The following procedures must be adopted when young people are involved in personal hearings:

- Evidence can only be received from young people (who must be accompanied by a responsible adult) in front of the Commission Members, Commission Secretary, Participant charged and his/her representative.
- No other persons are to be permitted within the room whilst a young person is giving evidence.
- Only the Chairman of the Commission is permitted to ask questions of the Young person.
- If the representatives or the Participant charged wish to ask questions, or if other members of the Commission wish to ask questions, those questions must be addressed through the Chairman, who will put the questions to the Young person.
- At the end of the questioning by the Commission, and having confirmed the participant or representative charged has no further questions that need to be put to the young person, the young person will be permitted to leave the room and will not be required to stay for the remainder of the hearing unless they specifically request to do so.
- It is preferable at this stage that the Young Person leaves the Commission venue completely although the practicalities surrounding joint travel with other attendees may make this difficult. However, the Young Person should not remain in the Commission room.