



SAFEGUARDING UPDATES



Birmingham County FA have a knowledgeable and experienced Safeguarding Team, with the recruitment of Andrew Wheeler as Designated Safeguarding Lead and Sarah Willis as Designated Safeguarding Officer and Respect Lead.

We are proud of our Club and League Welfare Officer network which provides support for volunteers, parents and children. Each youth club has at least one trained Club Welfare Officer (CWO) who is there to assist the member club in the provision of safeguarding. Each youth competition has at least one League Welfare Officer (LWO) that support our CWO network. Our role at Birmingham County FA is to support both CWO and LWOs through training, forums and updates. If you would like to know more about this support, or you feel you are missing out, please contact us on the details below.

Anyone working within regulated activity with children is required to have a Disclosing and Barring Service Check (DBS) carried out through The FA before they work with children. Going through this process allows all clubs to adhere to their safer recruitment policies, ensuring that the right people are working within football. Each Club Welfare Officer has the ability to manage their own DBS checks so they are always aware who is clear to work in regulated activity. In addition to this, Birmingham County FA operate a 90, 60, 30 day email reminder service for individuals enclosing details on how they can renew their DBS.

For this and various other good practice guidance, [click here](#).

Birmingham County FA, as with all County Football Associations, is regulated by the National Football Association in line with the Child Protection in Sport Unit of the NSPCC. The County FA regularly meet with the local authorities and local safeguarding children's boards, moreover we have active dialogue across all County Councils to ensure we remain compliant to all legislation.

For the third year, Birmingham County FA have complied with and passed a recent independent Safeguarding Operating Standard Assessment which is a mandatory requirement for all County FA's.

Our education courses have recently moved to a digital model. We continue offer the Safeguarding/Welfare Officer Courses for learners:

- Online Committee Members Course
- Safeguarding Children
- Safeguarding For All
- Virtual Welfare Officer Workshop

These and other online courses offer learners a greater understanding of Safeguarding children for anybody that works within football, regardless of your involvement. The Welfare Officer Workshop will give all Club Welfare Officer the relevant knowledge of how to deal with any safeguarding issues within their club, ensuring that the club is safeguarding compliant.

For further information please contact Sarah Willis, our Designated Safeguarding Officer & Respect Lead.

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