



SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE FOR OPEN AGED CLUBS WITH 16 AND 17 YEAR OLD PLAYERS

Cornwall FA is aware that there are many 16 and 17 year old players looking to play in Open Aged 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 enjoying their football and stay at the club by playing football in a safe environment:

- ⚽ Club to adopt and adhere to the FA Safeguarding Policy.
- ⚽ Ensure all coaches and physios working with 16/17 year olds are named and attached to the team on the Whole Game System
- ⚽ Ensure that all coaches and physios working with 16/17 year olds obtain an FA DBS check and undertake the relevant FA safeguarding training.
- ⚽ Manager/Coach should speak with the U18's player (and parent) about their expectations of joining the team, including playing time and their role within the team.
- ⚽ Ensure that the young player feels comfortable in the changing room environment and explain that if they do not wish to undress in the changing room they can arrive and depart wearing their playing kit.
- ⚽ Encourage your team captain to mentor any young players throughout the season and ensure that the other players on the team are mindful of the player's age when both on the pitch and in the changing room.
- ⚽ Safeguard U18's player at all times, but particularly during matches to ensure that he/she is not subjected to verbal or physical abuse by opposing players who are trying to intimidate them. Report any concerns to the match official and the County FA.
- ⚽ Manager/Coach to make the match official aware that you have an U18 player on your team.
- ⚽ Remember by law U18's are not allowed to drink alcohol!
- ⚽ Do not allow U18's to take part in any initiation (hazing) rituals.
- ⚽ Think about the travel arrangements for both home and away matches for U18' players. Ensure you have consent from parents and their emergency contact details.
- ⚽ Clubs to distribute the 'Understanding your Rights' leaflet to all 16/17-year-old players

For further information or guidance on Safeguarding Children and Young People in football please contact Claire Summers-Evans, Designated Safeguarding Officer claire.summers-evans@cornwallfa.com or phone 01208 262989 or visit our website www.cornwallfa.com