



## Safeguarding Communication to Under 18 Registered Referees

Dear Young Referee and Parent/ Carer,

**Durham County FA wants to ensure that you are aware of the support you can access should you have any concerns over your safety and welfare while carrying out your refereeing duties. Please read the information below in full and keep the information and contact details safe in case you need them.**

It is important to remember that the vast majority of football is played in safe and friendly environments where everyone can enjoy taking part. However, we appreciate that there may be occasions when you would like additional help and support.

### **Concerned about something you've seen or heard?**

Tell an adult you trust if you are concerned about something you have seen or heard, if something doesn't feel right, or if you are worried about comments someone has made to, or about, you via text or social media.

It's really important that, if you are concerned about you own safety, or the safety of another child or young person, that you let **Richard Hughes** Designated Safeguarding Officer **or Alex Clark** Referee Development Officer know as soon as possible to ensure we can support you.

If you or someone else is in immediate risk of harm, then this should be reported to the police via 101 or 999 phone numbers.

You can also contact Childline for advice and support on tel. 0800 11 11 or go online to [www.childline.org.uk/get-support/](http://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/)

### **Disciplinary Matters**

We advise referees to introduce themselves to both the home and away Coaches/Managers on arrival at the ground ask them to fully support you both during and after the game to promote both on the pitch and on the touchline.

If a situation does arise it's really important that match day disciplinary matters are reported to Durham County Football Association within 48 hours of the match being played.

In most cases this is a simple and speedy process that can be completed on line using the FA Whole Game System.

However, should you need further assistance in submitting the report please contact Alex Clark, Referee Development Officer, email [Alex.Clark@DurhamFA.com](mailto:Alex.Clark@DurhamFA.com) or telephone 01913872929 option 2 and option 6.

In the unlikely event of a very serious disciplinary matter, you may wish to speak to somebody about it.; Alex Clarke, Referee Development Officer or Richard Hughes, Designated Safeguarding Officer can be contacted for advice and support

### **Feel threatened?**

In the unlikely event you feel threatened whilst refereeing; your own safety must be your priority and if this were to happen you may have to abandon the match submitting a full report to the Durham County FA. In this particular instance we advise that you ask for the help of both Coaches/Managers at the game or a supportive adult to ensure you can leave the venue safely. Avoid doing or saying anything that might make things worse. At the first opportunity please report these events to our Disciplinary and Designated Safeguarding Officer department. Our Referee Development Officer, Alex Clark will contact you when he/she has been informed about the incident.

### **Attending a disciplinary hearing**

During the course of your refereeing career you may need to attend a disciplinary hearing to give evidence. Don't worry about this as you will be offered guidance and support by our Referee Development Officer and a member of the Discipline team. If you are under 18 we take your age into account and ensure the environment is relaxed and not threatening in any way. Referees under 16 can be accompanied by a parent/carer or colleague. If they prefer, our Referee Development Officer Alex Clarke be on hand to offer this assistance.

### **Inclusion**

If you have an impairment or believe there are restrictions in place preventing you from fully accessing and enjoying refereeing then you need to inform us. Football is inclusive and that applies to refereeing too. If you would like to chat about this please contact Alex Clark, Referee Development Officer and we can help to remove the barriers to your full participation.

Contact Name	Title	Email/telephone
Alex Clark	Referee Development Officer	<a href="mailto:Alex.Clark@DurhamFA.com">Alex.Clark@DurhamFA.com</a> 0191 3872929 Opt 2 Opt 6
Richard Hughes	Designated Safeguarding Officer	<a href="mailto:Richard.Hughes@DurhamFA.com">Richard.Hughes@DurhamFA.com</a> 01913872929 Opt 1
Michael Bell	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer	<a href="mailto:Michael.Bell@DurhamFA.com">Michael.Bell@DurhamFA.com</a> 01913872928 Opt 4 Opt 9
Tracey Lavery	Discipline Manager	<a href="mailto:Tracey.Lavery@DurhamFA.com">Tracey.Lavery@DurhamFA.com</a> 01913872929 Opt 2 Opt 1

**Durham County FA Safeguarding Policy and Durham County FA Anti-Bullying Policy -**  
<http://www.durhamfa.com/coaches/coaching-support/policies-and-procedures>

## Respect Code of Conduct

# Match Officials

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game – both on the pitch and on the sidelines.

Play your part and observe The FA's **Respect Code of Conduct** for match officials at all time.

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### I will:

- Be honest and completely impartial at all times
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently
- Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials

- Support my match official colleagues at all times
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game
- Communicate with the players and encourage fair play
- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match
- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate.

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I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA.

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### I may be:

- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Official
- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Committee.