

# Under-18 Referees

## *Have Fun, Keep Safe*



**Dear Referee,**

**Durham County FA wants to ensure 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 it and the 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 your own safety, or the safety of another child or young person, that you let the County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer or the County FA 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: [childline.org.uk/get-support/](https://childline.org.uk/get-support/).

### **Disciplinary Matters**

It's really important that all matchday disciplinary matters are reported to the Durham County FA as soon as possible. In most cases this is a simple and speedy process that can be completed online. However, should you need assistance in compiling a report contact Alex Clark, the County FA's Referee Development Officer.

In the unlikely event of a very serious disciplinary matter, you may wish to speak to somebody about it. Our Referee Development Officer or 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. Find a supportive adult and 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 will contact you when he/she has been informed about the incident.

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CONTACT NAME	TITLE	EMAIL/TELEPHONE
Alex Clark	Referee Development Officer	<a href="mailto:Alex.Clark@DurhamFA.com">Alex.Clark@DurhamFA.com</a>
Michael Bell	Designated Safeguarding Officer	<a href="mailto:Michael.Bell@DurhamFA.com">Michael.Bell@DurhamFA.com</a>
Tracey Lavery	Discipline Departments	<a href="mailto:Tracey.Lavery@DurhamFA.com">Tracey.Lavery@DurhamFA.com</a>

Kind Regards

Durham County FA