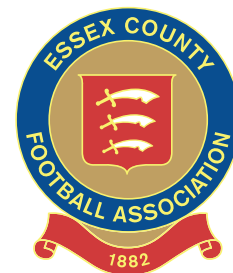


ESSEX COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Creating a united grassroots environment
which delivers football opportunity For All.



GRASSROOTS CLUB AFFILIATION PACK



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The following guide has been created as a support guide for clubs whether new, or existing in the county of Essex. Hopefully, the information provided will help your club as well as reassure you that help and support is at hand. The list of contacts below are our staff team on hand to help. Your starting contact should be the Football Services Officer or Football Development Officer in whichever local authority you are based.



Key Contacts

At the Essex County FA, as a large county for football participation, we regionalise the county into four 'Group Areas' to help manage, service and develop the grassroots game.

Listed below are the group areas in which we work and the key contacts for those areas;

Group 1: Braintree, Colchester, Maldon & Tendring

Football Services Officer: Jake Fairman

Tel: (01245) 393 080

Email: jake.fairman@essexfa.com

Football Development Officer: Lana Gillard

Tel: (01245) 393 092

Email: lane.gillard@essexfa.com

Group 3: Basildon, Castlepoint, Rochford, Southend-on-sea & Thurrock

Football Services Manager: Robert Craven

Tel: (01245) 393082

Email: robert.craven@essexfa.com

Football Development Officer: Luke Evans

Tel: (01245) 393099

Email: luke.evans@essexfa.com

Group 2: Brentwood, Chelmsford, Epping Forest, Harlow & Uttlesford

Football Services Officer: Cairo Duncan

Tel: (01245) 393 081

Email: cairo.duncan@essexfa.com

Football Development Officer: Emma Burden

Tel: (01245) 393073

Email: emma.burden@essexfa.com

Football Development Manager: Karl Sear

Tel: (01245) 393094

Email: karl.sear@essexfa.com

Group 4: Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge & Waltham Forest

Football Services Officer: Fran Smith

Tel: (01245) 393083

Email: fran.smith@essexfa.com

Football Development Officer: Jake Ling

Tel: (01245) 393088

Email: jake.ling@essexfa.com



Whether you are a new club recruiting your committee, or an existing club wanting to add to your committee, it is very important to share the roles and responsibilities. The running of a grassroots club has many different elements, and having multiple volunteers, will support the process, ensuring that the workload is shared. Some examples of the mandatory roles needed for affiliation have been provided below with a brief overview of their role within the club;

- Club Chairperson: Lead member of the club, will be responsible for the overall leadership and development of the club.
- Club Secretary: Main source of contact at the club and will receive and send any relevant information and updates required out to its members.
- Club Treasurer: Responsible for handling the club's finances and paying relevant fees such as affiliation costs to the County FA.
- Club Welfare Officer (Clubs with U18 players): Responsible for ensuring that FA safeguarding standards are met by all associated with the club. Support the club personnel understand the policies and procedures for raising concerns. FA DBS Check verifier for the club.
- Team Manager: Responsible for running the team's training and games, as well as managing players of the respective teams.
- Team Secretary: Responsible for the teams' admin, such as confirming fixtures with the opposition and referee, as well as dealing with player discipline sanctions.

Follow this link for further information on club role profiles:
www.essexfa.com/volunteers/volunteer-roles

Football Leadership Diversity Code

The Football Leadership Diversity Code has been launched with the aim to ensure English football at all levels represents our modern and diverse society. Tailored for the National League System, Women's Pyramid and Grassroots football, the Code focuses on tackling inequality alongside improving representation of diverse groups across senior leadership positions, wider team operations and coaching roles. The Code looks to increase the equality of opportunity by encouraging the selection of leaders and coaches based on merit from a wider pool of diverse talent.



Clubs will pledge to adhere to five commitments to being Leaders in Football Diversity, ensuring that they promote and deliver the highest standards across their club:

- 1: Club Leadership - Our club's leadership should reflect the diversity of our local community
- 2: Coaching and Selection - Ensuring diversity within our volunteer coaching workforce
- 3: Culture - Continuing to strive for the most inclusive club culture
- 4: Reporting Discrimination - Encouraging the reporting of discrimination
- 5: Raising Awareness – Raising awareness on the topic of equality, diversity, and inclusion

The Code will form part of the minimum requirements for England Accreditation each season. Clubs will be able to adopt the Football Leadership Diversity Code and apply for accreditation via Platform For Football. Clubs that sign up to the code will ensure their culture encourages people from all backgrounds to be part of football in the local community, both as participants and in roles off the pitch.

Clubs can adopt this code by visiting the Club Portal: clubs.thefa.com

For more information on The Football Leadership Diversity Code visit
www.essexfa.com/about/rules-and-regulations/inclusion/football-leadership-diversity-code



Affiliating your club

New and existing grassroots clubs in Essex, will need to affiliate to Essex County FA as the local football governing body. Affiliating to Essex County FA will allow you to join an affiliated league, play in organised friendlies, access qualified match officials, and gain the appropriate cover (such as; Public Liability Insurance and Personal Accident cover) for your players.

Identifying a club name (New clubs only)

If you are a new club you must decide on a Club Name and we advise on identifying three to four potential names before contacting our Football Services team. We also advise trying to use the location of where your team will be based within the club name and avoid proposing similar names to surrounding clubs already affiliated. Our Football Services team will be able to confirm and agree a name for your new club as part of the affiliation process.

Club affiliation costs

To affiliate a grassroots club will cost £35, with a fee of £12 per team associated (after the first team has been affiliated).

Essex County FA will cover 100% of the public liability insurance and make a contribution towards the personal accident insurance when purchased through affiliation, which is provided from our insurance partner SportsGuard.

For new clubs; Please reach out to Mark Wallis from our Football Services team, once you're ready to affiliate your new grassroots club or ask any further questions regarding the affiliation process and the insurance policies available. His email address is Mark.Wallis@essexfa.com

For more details on the affiliation process, please visit:
www.essexfa.com/leagues-and-clubs/club-management/affiliation).

County Cups



We offer 22 County Cups, which enable all teams playing competitive football to enter a countywide competition.

Our competitions range from U12 to U18 across boys and girls football as well as open age male and female and three male veterans competitions.

We boast around 1,500 County Cup entries each season and each of the finals are played at a semi-professional stadium.

The cost to enter a County Cup is from £15 for most competitions and the deadline for entry is 31st July. Entry is to be made as part of your affiliation process and can be applied for at the Step 4 stage of the online affiliation process.

More details can be found here: www.essexfa.com/cups-and-competitions/county-cups



FA Technology Systems

The FA now have several Technology Systems in place designed to ease the administration of grassroots football. Please find below a quick summary of each of the platforms and for more information, visit: www.essexfa.com/leagues-and-clubs/club-management/online-club-administration

Whole Game System

The FA's Whole Game System is a long-standing platform that has historically been used for grassroots clubs' administrative tasks, such as affiliation, discipline, player and team registration. As The FA begins to align all of their platforms and club admin through the Club Portal, some existing platforms such as the whole game system will continue to be utilised by club volunteers including Club affiliation.

Club Portal

Club Portal is being designed as the basis for all club administration activity. At the start of the 2022/23 season, it is used to submit player registrations and to gain England Accreditation, but enhancements are being planned to use the Club Portal for affiliation and discipline, which currently takes place in the Whole Game System.

Player Registration

All player registration now takes place online through the Club Portal. Clubs are able to search for players, invite new players to join the club using a hyperlink or direct invitation and then register them with their league. Leagues set the specific requirements for registration (whether photos are needed, or proof of ID), although all players will be required to have an email address to register.

Full Time

Full-Time is used by many leagues in order to find out results, arrange fixtures and then provide details of the players that have played in each match. It is linked on online player registrations and the Club Portal, in that officials listed and players registered are transferred automatically into Full-Time, as well as The FA Matchday app. Results can be submitted by logging into Full-Time, by sending a response to an automated text or by submitting details on The FA Matchday app.

Match Day App

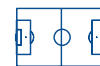
The FA's official Matchday app has been developed specifically to automate everything around your football life – whether you're a player, club secretary, manager or coach.

Who's in the team? Who are the opponents? Where's the game? When's kick-off? Is anyone currently suspended? With Matchday, all the answers are instantly available at your fingertips.

And it's all in a safe and secure environment, backed by The FA. We'll also ensure it has up-to-date, comprehensive information on players, clubs, fixtures and leagues.

It's often said that time is our most precious commodity. The main aim of Matchday is to save you time, so you can confidently enjoy the game you love, knowing your football life is sorted. Oh, and we forgot to tell you – it's free!

For more information please visit www.essexfa.com/coaches/matchday



Finding a Home Ground

As a grassroots club applying to an affiliated league, we would recommend you secure a pitch for your team to play its home matches. This is a mandatory requirement for all clubs when applying to an affiliated league. Please note that this will be an annual cost to your club and fees can range dependant on the facility type you wish to play your matches.

There are a number of pitch operators across the county, ranging from Local Authorities, Parish Council's, Town Council's, Education providers and private facilities.

To start your search for a pitch, feel free to use the link below to browse various sites within your local area through the Football Foundation's 'Pitch Finder' resource:

www.pitchfinder.org.uk

Our local Football Development Officer team may also be able to support you.
Please visit: www.essexfa.com/about/contact-us



Applying to a local league

There are a number of playing opportunities that exist in Essex across the different player pathways; Male, Female, Disability & Futsal and provision ranges from U7's through to Walking Football.

Your Club/Team will need to decide which league is most appropriate to apply to. Some factors to consider will be:

- Club/Team Locality
- Player availability
- Club/Team/Player aspirations
- Entry requirements from Leagues rules

Our Football Development Officers are on hand to have discussions with any Club/Team around this.

Each League typically has a league entry fee, this information can often be found on the league website or can be shared by the League Secretary.

For more information, please click on the links below that will take you to our website where all Essex affiliated leagues are listed with hyperlinks to their websites.

Any trouble getting in touch with a local league, please get in touch with your local Football Development Officer for support.

MALE PATHWAY

FEMALE PATHWAY

DISABILITY

FUTSAL

League Rules

Once your affiliation to Essex County FA has completed, new and existing clubs will pay their fees to enter their local grassroots league.

As a member of a local grassroots league, your club committee will have to adhere to certain commitments to ensure they are upkeeping with the league's rules. Your local league will send you their official league rules upon entering, and you will need to ensure you read this in full to understand the responsibilities and procedures.

Some examples of this may be, attending league meetings such as Annual General Meetings (AGM) or Special General Meetings (SGM), these may be in person or virtually and are typically held annually before the new season. Other league rules for clubs may be, confirming fixtures with opposition and referees, submitting your results on a matchday, and paying referees on time.

Please Note: Not adhering to these league rules may result in fines and disciplinary actions which can be avoidable. Any queries on what these may incur, speak to your respective League Secretary.



Safeguarding

At the Essex County FA, we place the safeguarding and welfare of children and adults at risk at the heart of our mission in creating a safe, inclusive and positive environment For All. It's the responsibility of everybody involved in football, thus every club is required to endorse and adhere to The FA's Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policies.

It's important to remember that every child or young person (defined as any person under the age of 18) or adult at risk who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse.

We offer a range of safeguarding services and training to help create a safe and enjoyable football experience for everyone. We ensure safeguarding requirements are met as a prerequisite of club affiliation and we support clubs to maintain these standards. This includes making safeguarding visits to clubs annually, each season, to ensure that our member clubs are providing us with the correct information on club volunteers.

Affiliation requirements

Youth Club Affiliation

As a Youth Club you will need the following in place before completing affiliation:

- Club Welfare Officer (who has completed the Club Welfare Officer workshop)
- All committee members to have completed The FA's Safeguarding for Committee Members course
- All coaches, to obtain an FA Certified DBS check

For further information on courses above and the DBS check process, please see below.

Open-Age Club Affiliation

It will be mandatory from the 2023/24 season for coaches working with 16-17 year olds within open-age football to have an FA DBS Check, in line with UK Government legislation.

Therefore, best practice would be to ensure that Open-Age clubs and Disability clubs have a designated Club Welfare Officer, and all coaches have FA DBS certificates to comply with the future mandatory requirements.

Disability Pathway

For clubs working with Adults at risk, The FA have a Guide to Safeguarding Adults and a relative workshop. Please visit the qualifications section below to see the link to the guide and course.

Obtaining an FA-Certified DBS

To start your DBS check, please speak to your clubs club welfare officer who will be able to start your application process or for more information about an FA DBS, please speak to one of our dedicated Safeguarding team who will be happy to support you via visiting www.essexfa.com/about/contact-us

Safeguarding Training & Qualifications

Club Welfare Officer

- Mandatory for Youth Clubs
- £25 Online Course
- Two hours
- Minimum age of 18 to complete
- Pre-requisite must have FA Safeguarding Children Certificate and an FA DBS
- www.essexfa.com/coaches/development-and-courses/fa-welfare-officer-workshop

The FA Safeguarding for All

- Free Online Course (Not a safeguarding qualification)
- Provides a basic overview of how to safeguard children, looking specifically at best practice, poor practice, and abuse topics
- If you're under 18, it'll also explain how to safeguard yourself
- www.thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications/safeguarding-courses

The FA Safeguarding Children Course

- Mandatory for any volunteer working with U18's in Football
- £30 Online course
- 2 hours
- Minimum age of 16 to complete
- Valid for 2 years
- Receive a certificate once completed
- www.essexfa.com/coaches/development-and-courses/fa-safeguarding-children-workshop

The FA Safeguarding For Committee Members

- Mandatory for Chairperson, Secretary, CWO & Treasurer
- Free online course
- Supports you as a committee member to identify yours and collective responsibility in safeguarding
- www.thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications/safeguarding-courses

The FA Guide to Safeguarding Adults

- Explores the meaning of 'Safeguarding Adults' and 'adults at risk'
- www.thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications/safeguarding-courses

Don't Hesitate... Escalate! The FA's Whistleblowing Policy

If you have reported a safeguarding concern about a child or young person and are dissatisfied with the manner in which the concern has been handled, there are a number of organisations you can (and should) escalate the concern to.

Within Football:

Club Welfare Officer

Check your club website, ask your coach or committee members

TOP TIP: Know who your CWO is and have their contact details!

League Welfare Officer

Check your league's website or ask their committee members

Essex County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) & Child Welfare Officer (CWO)

Helen Hever, helen.hever@essexfa.com, (01245) 393098

The FA's Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@thefa.com

External to Football:

Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Officer

Check your local authority website

The NSPCC

(0800) 800 5000
help@nspcc.org.uk

The Police

Non-Emergency: 101
Emergency: 999

@EssexCountyFA

EssexFootball

www.essexfa.com



Supporting the Matchday Environment



At Essex County FA our vision is to 'create a united grassroots football environment which delivers football opportunity for all'. As part of this everyone involved should feel safe and be able to enjoy the experience. Clubs play a key role in supporting the matchday environment and below are some things to consider and look over to ensure you are doing as much as you can to support.

Club Discipline

It's key to keep Club discipline under control and to a minimum. Yellow cards shown for dissent and red cards shown for any offence will mean individuals missing out on game-time, and can affect the enjoyment of other participants in the game. Repeated poor discipline can have a reputational impact on the Club, as well as leading to charges and sanctions, including fines. As a result, it's important to be clear on what you expect from your players in terms of their commitment and behaviour on and off the pitch.

RESPECT

Creating the right environment for your players, both on and off the pitch is so important. To support this, The FA launched its RESPECT programme in the 2008/09 season to emphasise and encourage the need for better environments across all levels of grassroots football.

The Respect codes of conduct are in place to ensure that everyone involved within an England Football Accredited club or league is playing their part to give the players a positive experience. Clubs should actively get new Codes of Conduct signed by all members – players, coaches, committee members and spectators.

Please visit our website for more info including templates of the FA Respect code of conducts:
www.essexfa.com/leagues-and-clubs/matchday-environment

#PlayYourPart

Essex County FA have created Matchday Environment support documents that clubs can use to create the best possible matchday experience for everyone involved. Visit the link below which has downloadable documents covering:

- #PlayYourPart for Clubs
- #PlayYourPart for Coaches
- #PlayYourPart for Spectators
- #PlayYourPart for Players
- Guide to Coaches Pre-Season Workshop & template presentation
- Guide to Spectators Pre-Season Workshop & template presentation

Please visit our website for more info:

www.essexfa.com/leagues-and-clubs/matchday-environment

FA's In The Box Podcast

As a club it is key to be able to identify what you stand for, and the visions and values you have set that define your club. By having a set of vision and values this will encourage buy-in from everyone associated with your club and support development of a safe positive and inclusive environment.

Click on the image to access The FA's In The Box Podcast's where the FA's team discuss ways in which your club can identify its vision and values.



Kit & Equipment



Every club needs kit & equipment, and typically clubs will fund this through player membership fees, sponsorship or other club funds.

There is no specific funding pots for bibs, balls and cones etc. You may be able to obtain Sponsorship for such items, alternatively we recommend these costs are split amongst the playing squad.

Please find below links to Active Essex & London Sport funding pages, where you can sometimes find small grants and funding opportunities to support some of these costs.



www.activeessex.org



www.londonsport.org

Coaching



Coaching courses have now transitioned to a central delivery model, led by FA Education (England Football Learning). Further details of these changes can be found here:

www.essexfa.com/news/2022/jan/13/coach-education-update

FA Playmaker

The first course in the pathway is The BT Playmaker by England Football, this is a free online entry-level course. It's perfect for anyone interested in taking a more active role in grassroots football and it's open to all.

For more info and to start the course, visit www.essexfa.com/about/the-fa-playmaker

The FA Introduction to Coaching Course

The second course on the pathway is The FA Introduction to Coaching Course, this is a 4 week online course costing £160. Candidates should have completed The FA Playmaker Course prior to booking on and be a minimum age of 16.

For more info, including how to book, visit:

www.essexfa.com/coaches/development-and-courses/fa-level-1-in-coaching-football

Further Qualifications

Beyond these qualifications you can access the UEFA C & UEFA B Coaching Licenses details of which can be found at





www.essexfa.com/coaches/development-and-courses/fa-level-2-in-coaching-football

Essex FA Coach Development Programme

In early 2021, our countywide coaching survey highlighted the need for localised coach support and learning opportunities, through delivery of face-to-face experiences.

To continue supporting grassroots coaches with their ongoing learning, we launched our new Coach Development Programme in summer 2021. Our offer consists of a variety of learning experiences, enabling coaches to continue engaging with the Essex County FA, alongside the formal FA qualification pathway.

Follow the links below for more information:

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | On The Pitch Practical workshops for new and experienced coaches |  | In Focus Insight from partner organizations |
|  | Your Club Support your coaching workforce |  | Online Discussions Support with common coaching challenges |

First Aid

Introduction to First Aid in Football is an online course suitable for anyone looking to develop their knowledge and understanding of medical care for players of all ages. The course is a 2 hour online course costing £30.

For more information and how to book, visit

www.essexfa.com/coaches/development-and-courses/fa-level-1-introduction-to-first-aid-in-football



Referees



Every team wants a qualified Referee for their games and Essex County FA works to recruit, develop and retain referees. Clubs and teams can help to support this by respecting referees in the match day environment. There are two campaigns which you should be aware of:

#ThankTheRef

#ThankTheRef, is aiming to encourage more participants in grassroots football to positively comment on, and show gratitude to their referee after each game with some inspiring words of support.

We are encouraging all members of the grassroots football community to tweet us @EssexCountyFA after their next match. Do so including #ThankTheRef, to highlight why they appreciated their referee (and assistant referees) on the day and why they officiated the game effectively.

U18 Yellow Armband

U18 officials will don the bright armbands to signify their age and that they're still in the early stages of their development. The aim is to highlight to spectators that these referees are still children and they're learning and developing, similar to the players on the pitch. Without them, many youth games may go uncovered, meaning participation and player development could also be impacted.

For more information on refereeing or enquiring about becoming a new referee, please visit our website for more details: www.essexfa.com/referees

Assistant Referees

Within grassroots football, a lot of the time Essex FA affiliated referees are going to require voluntary assistants to support them in officiating the game or a volunteer will actually need to be the referee!

Within mini-soccer parents, spectators, or coaches may need to act as the referee for the game. Within youth or open-age football, the assistants are primarily from each of the two teams.

The FA offer a range of learning and support to volunteers who may wish to increase their knowledge on officiating or assisting a grassroots game of football.

Please find below a list of online learning to help you understand the laws of the game and how to control a match:

FA Guide to the Laws of the Game: falearning.thefa.com/course/view.php?id=1804

The FA Guide to the Laws of the Game online learning has five sections and will take approximately 90 minutes to complete:

- Module 1 – Before the Match
- Module 2 – Signals and Communication
- Module 3 – 'Getting it Right'
- Module 4 – Offside
- Module 5 – Managing Restarts and Set-Pieces

Match Control: falearning.thefa.com/course/view.php?id=1872

The Match Control online learning is primarily for referees who have recently completed the FA Referee Course however more experienced referees may also find it valuable as a refresher. The online learning will take approximately 40 minutes to complete and is made up of five sections:

- Module 1 – What is Match Control?
- Module 2 – Effective Communication
- Module 3 – Alertness and Awareness
- Module 4 – The Art of Management

Assistant Refereeing: falearning.thefa.com/course/view.php?id=1884

The Assistant Refereeing online learning is primarily for referees who have recently completed the FA Referee Course and anyone who is undertaking the role as a club assistant referee. The online learning will take approximately 20 minutes to complete and covers the role of the assistant referee and their responsibilities; signals, positioning and movement; and working as a team.

Finances

Managing your money is an essential part of good club management.

Although managing the day-to-day finances of your football club can seem a daunting or tedious task, it's a vital part of running a reputable and sustainable Football club. The club treasurer will be responsible for taking care of the clubs finances and will be the main source of contact relating to club income and expenditure.

Sport England's Club Matters has a whole section on this with some useful tools. Visit: www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/financial-management/income-generation/funding-guidance/



Squad Booster



Essex County FA can support their affiliated clubs with recruitment by posting adverts across our website and social media platforms, reaching out to thousands of followers.

To develop an advert for players or volunteers please visit www.essexfa.com/players/support/squad-booster



The **#SquadBooster** hashtag is used every day by a growing number of users, generating millions of interactions every year as players and teams are matched together: bit.ly/SqBstEss



12:32 pm · 14 Dec 2021 · Buffer



Essex County FA @EssexCountyFA · 15 Dec
Players Wanted! @ShieldAcademyFC: Age Group: Under 10s (Blacks), School Years: 5 and 6, Format: Small-Sided, Position/s Required: All Positions, Training: Saturdays and Thursdays, Matches: Sundays, Competition: @echoleague #Ilford Details: squadbooster.com #SquadBooster



Clubs are an essential component of the football participation pathway, providing playing opportunities directly for all sections of their local community.

England Football Accredited is the new framework for league and club accreditation and replaces the FA Charter Standard. The accreditation provides The FA and the Essex County FA with the opportunity to recognise the clubs who raise the bar and set the tempo for football to thrive within the county. It enables us to work with stakeholders to ensure the offer within your club remains modern and offers maximum opportunity to participate, regardless of background or ability. No matter how big your club is, if you have the England Football Accreditation it shows that you're making a huge difference to your local community. As we transition to the new accreditation framework, more football than ever is played within an accredited environment within Essex.

Dependant on a clubs pathway offering, each accredited club will achieve a star rating. This recognizes and demonstrates that they have football teams within their setup which support the three accredited player pathways (Male, Female and Disability). It helps us to align and tailor the necessary support and services your club needs to become the best version of itself.

For more information on England Football Accreditation please visit www.essexfa.com/leagues-and-clubs/englandfootball-accreditation





Ensuring your club's marketing, branding and communications are in a strong position will play a crucial part in you achieving many of your other goals, whether that be for player recruitment and retention, attracting volunteers or maintaining a positive reputation.

Marketing and Communications can come in various forms and we encourage clubs to think carefully around how they choose to interact with their different audiences particularly around Social Media Platforms. We strongly advise that clubs have a Social Media Policy which provides guidance to all members on their use of social media. You can find our template at the following link as well a download around guidance of photography and filming in grassroots football:

www.essexfa.com/leagues-and-clubs/marketing-and-communications

Safeguarding and Social Media

In today's world, safeguarding children and young people applies as much online as it does face-to-face. Part of the role of The FA as the game's governing body is to offer guidance. We're constantly looking to provide a supportive framework around everyone who participates in football, whatever their role. This guidance role clearly extends to the use of digital platforms in a football context. Such platforms include websites, email, mobile messaging and use of social media sites such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter. Of course, these technologies have huge benefits. For example, it's so much easier nowadays for a team or club to let its players know the times of training sessions, meet-ups and match venues. However, we have to recognise that digital platforms can be misused, with increased risks to children and young people. Football takes these risks extremely seriously. It's with this in mind that a series of guidance notes have been developed, all listed below. It's essential that everyone involved in our great game makes informed decisions about how they use the internet, social media, mobile phone and email communications – particularly when children and young people are involved. To read the latest guidance on safeguarding in a digital world, visit:

www.essexfa.com/about/rules-and-regulations/safeguarding-and-welfare/social-media-guidance

Club Welcome Pack

Effective communication across organisations is often one of the hardest things to achieve. We encourage and understand that many of our stakeholders use several different methods to share key messages. The Development Team at Essex FA have created a completely editable Club Welcome Pack which we encourage clubs to use as a template adding and removing sections as they wish before updating and circulating on an annual basis. This document is a great way to share/reiterate what the club stands for, its Vision, Values and way you as a club committee wish for it to be represented within the community.

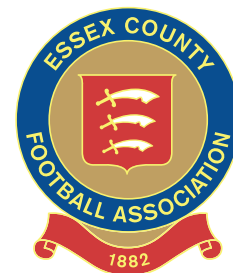
To access the Club Welcome Pack template, visit:

www.essexfa.com/leagues-and-clubs/marketing-and-communications

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