



Dear Secretary,

### **Open-age Adult Football Clubs' Safeguarding Responsibilities**

Happy New Year and all good wishes to you for 2020. May we all take this opportunity to say a big thank you to you and your colleagues for all the hard work you put in to ensure your league runs effectively, supporting the clubs to provide football, week in and week out. We wish you an enjoyable rest of 2019-20 season.

Please find attached a letter that has been sent to all open-age adult football clubs this week. The purpose of the letter is to help clubs to understand their safeguarding responsibilities for under 18s and safeguarding adults.

For the avoidance of doubt every open-age adult club is required to safeguard under 18s and to where there are adult disability teams to promote safeguarding adults, across every aspect of the club.

Clubs are being asked to take the necessary actions to ensure they meet the requirements as detailed in the attached letter. Some clubs will already be doing this, and some leagues will be proactively supporting these requirements.

For those clubs who need some support to meet their safeguarding responsibilities there are several updated resources available on TheFA.com safeguarding pages, all of which are referenced in the attached letter.

We encourage every non-disability and disability league, where possible, to offer support to their clubs. Having consulted with a number of leagues in the lead in to communicating this information, you may wish to consider the actions as detailed below in respect of your non-disability league see Section A and disability league see Section B to support your clubs.

#### **Section A -Support for non-disability open-age adult teams**

- Providing league Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Verifiers for your clubs

*Please contact your County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer for information on how to become a verifier*

- Holding DBS check verification 'clinics' on specified dates/times
- Offering financial support for DBS checks
- Speaking to your CFA about running familiarisation sessions for using The FAs Whole Game System

- Distribute the FAs 'Know your rights in football' guidance to 16/17 year old players in your league

For helpful information please visit -

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-7-children-and-young-people-under-18s>

View section 3: 3.5 Eligibility of roles and 3.7 DBS FAQs

View section 7: 7.1 Know your rights in football

### **Section B -Support for disability open-age adult teams**

- Recruiting and appointing a Welfare Officer for your own league (10.2)
- Requiring your committee members to complete the free 'Safeguarding Adults' online course (10.4)
- Promoting the free 'Safeguarding Adults' online course to your clubs (10.4)
- Using the Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures Open-Age Adult Disability League Template (10.5)
- Encouraging your clubs to use the Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures Open-Age Adult Disability Club Template (10.5)
- Encouraging your clubs to display the 'Stay safe and enjoy football poster' (10.11)
- Adopting the 'easy read' Respect Code of Conduct for your league and requiring your clubs to utilise this resource (10.12)
- Speaking to your CFA about organising Adult Disability Club Welfare Officer networking sessions

You can access all of these resources via the following link -

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-10-safeguarding-adults>

County FAs will be proactively supporting their open-age adult clubs to understand their safeguarding responsibilities, should you feel you need further clarity or support or feel you can offer additional support yourselves then please contact your County FA.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support,



Sue Ravenlaw

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