Safeguarding Requirements for Youth Football

Helping Ensure Football is Safe For All

Working together we can create a positive environment in which football thrives, making sure our leagues and clubs are places where best practice is followed, unacceptable behaviours are challenged and children and young people are protected from harm.

An essential element of this is ensuring that those who come into regular contact with any of these groups are appropriately qualified for the role they are carrying out.

Below are listed the minimum requirements for different roles:

TEAM MANAGERS, COACHES, ASSISTANTS AND MEDICS

Each youth team must have at least one Lead Coach with the following. These are also required for Assistant Coaches of youth teams if they ever have sole charge of a team at training or matches

- Completed the Introduction to Coaching Football qualification (or The FA Level 1 in Coaching Football as it was previously)
- In-date FA DBS check (must be renewed every 3 years)
- In-date Safeguarding Children Course, the Safeguarding Children Recertification must be completed before the initial qualification expires otherwise you will need to complete the course again
- In-date Introduction to First Aid in Football (must be renewed every 3 years)

Assistant Coaches of youth teams who don't have sole charge at any point, including parents who regularly help out with the team and have contact with young players, must have the following:

- Completed EE Playmaker by England Football course
- In-date FA DBS check (must be renewed every 3 years)
- In-date Safeguarding Children Course, the Safeguarding Children Recertification must be completed before the initial qualification expires otherwise you will need to complete the course again

Team medics, First Aiders or physios of youth teams are required to have:

- In-date FA DBS check (must be renewed every 3 years)
- In-date Safeguarding Children Course, the Safeguarding Children Recertification must be completed before the initial qualification expires otherwise you will need to complete the course again
- In-date Introduction to First Aid in Football (must be renewed every 3 years)

If you have questions about which qualifications you have or need for a particular role contact your Club Welfare Officer who will be able to support you in the first instance, or alternatively if they are unable to help, contact our Designated Safeguarding Officer.

All courses are available at learn.englandfootball.com/courses

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REFEREES

Referees aged 16 and over must have the following:

- Completed The FA Referee Course
- In-date FA DBS check (must be renewed every 3 years) if officiating in Youth Football. This is also best practice for open age football where there may be players who are under 18
- In-date Safeguarding Children Course, the Safeguarding Children Recertification must be completed before the initial qualification expires otherwise you will need to complete the course again
- Parent FAN link (if under 18 years of age)

Referees aged 14 and 15 must have the following:

- Completed The FA Referee Course
- Completed Safeguarding for All
- Parent FAN link

An individual such as a parent who runs the line or takes a game occasionally (defined as on no more than three out of any thirty days) is not required to have a qualification, however best practice would be for them to complete the Safeguarding Awareness for Parents & Carers Course.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

League or Club Welfare Officers must have the following:

- Completed Welfare Officers Course (previously Welfare Officers Workshop)
- In-date FA DBS check (must be renewed every 3 years)
- In-date Safeguarding Children Course, the Safeguarding Children Recertification must be completed before the initial qualification expires otherwise you will need to complete the course again
- In-date Safeguarding for Committee Members (must be renewed every 5 years)

Club Committee Members - Secretary/Chair/Treasurer and all named registration secretaries must have the following:

- In-date Safeguarding for Committee Members (must be renewed every 5 years)

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