

Temporary changes to FA Safeguarding Requirements for Affiliation in Response to Coronavirus

The following temporary changes have been made by The FA to support County FAs to carry out the relevant administrations to affiliate youth club, whilst ensuring that the requirements for DBS Checks are maintained.

- Lifted the requirements within CRM to enable County FAs to affiliate teams where a:
 - Coach/Manager and/or Assistant does not hold an in-date accepted DBS Check;
 - Club Welfare Officer (CWO) does not hold an in-date accepted DBS Check;
 - CWO has not completed the relevant safeguarding training (Safeguarding Children Workshop (SCW), Welfare Officer Workshop (WOW) and online Safeguarding for Committee Members (SCM).

For the avoidance of doubt, these requirements are being lifted purely so that clubs can complete the affiliation process. All coaches and CWO's must have an accepted DBS Check prior to carrying out their roles when football resumes.

- Extended the requirements for renewals of DBS Check certificates that expire between 1st March and 1st October 2020, by 12 months. This will affect approximately 40,000 renewal checks, if all these individuals re engage with football when it restarts.

Whilst CWOs and coaches will be allowed for the administration of the affiliation process to take place, our position and messaging to CWOs, coaches and clubs is that anyone carrying out regulated activity with Under-18s (in accordance with DBS guidance) must have an Enhanced DBS Check with a check of the Children's Barring List before they commence their role in football.

Table 1: Summarises the changes to club affiliation processes in relation to Club Welfare Officers

Role	Current affiliation requirements	Changes in light of Covid-19
New Club Welfare Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-date DBS Check; SCW, WOW and free online Safeguarding for Committee Members course (SCM). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require SCM; Lift requirements, for CWOs to have SCW/WOW and In-date DBS Check to enable affiliation.
Existing Club Welfare Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above; + 'In-date' SCW, using free online re-certification course from 2021/22. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lift CRM requirement for DBS Check, to enable affiliation. For DBS Checks expiring 1st March 2020 to 1st October 2020, extend by 12 months.

Table 2: Summarises the changes to club affiliation processes in relation to coaches.

Role	Affiliation requirements	Changes In light of Covid-19
Coaches, Managers and assistants in under-18 teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-date DBS Check required for affiliation; • Minimum one named coach/team; • Named coach must have SCW by 2021/22. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For DBS Checks expiring 1st March 2020 to 1st October 2020, extend by 12 months; • Lift CRM requirement for DBS Check, to enable affiliation.
Coaches, Managers and Assistants, in FA Charter Standard clubs with under-18 teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above; • + FA Charter Standard clubs are required to have one coach per youth team, with FA Level 1/In-date <u>SCW</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For DBS Checks expiring 1st March 2020 to 1st October 2020, extend by 12 months; • The requirement for an FA Level 1 coach per youth team has been paused.

Key:

SCW: Safeguarding Children Workshop;

WOW: Welfare Officers' Workshop;

CWO: Club Welfare Officer;

SCM: Safeguarding for Committee Members' online course.