



Safeguarding Communication to Under-18 Registered Referees

Under-18 referees – have fun and keep safe

Dear Referee

Liverpool County Football Association wants to ensure that 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 the information and 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 **Gordon Johnson** our Designated Safeguarding 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 telephone number 0800 11 11 or go online to www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

Disciplinary Matters

It's really important that all matchday disciplinary matters are reported to Liverpool 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 **David Horlick** LCFA Referee Development Manager.

In the unlikely event of a very serious disciplinary matter, you may wish to speak to somebody about it. Our Referee Development Manager or Designated Safeguarding Officer can both be contacted for advice or support.



Feel threatened?

In the unlikely event that you feel threatened whilst refereeing; your own safety must be your priority. Find a supportive adult and ensure that 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 departments. Our Referee Development Manager will contact you as soon as he has been informed of the incident.

Attending a disciplinary hearing

During the course of your refereeing career you may need to attend a disciplinary hearing to give evidence. Don't worry about this as you will be offered guidance and support by a member of the Discipline team. If you are under 18 we take your age into account and ensure the environment is relaxed and not threatening in any way. Referees under 16 can be accompanied by a parent/carer or colleague. If they prefer, our Referee Development Manager or Designated Safeguarding Officer can be on hand to offer this assistance.

Inclusion

If you have an impairment or believe there are restrictions in place preventing you from fully accessing and enjoying refereeing then you need to inform us. Football is inclusive and that applies to refereeing too. If you would like to chat about this please contact the County FA Referee Development Manager or Designating Safeguarding Officer and we can help to remove the barriers to your full participation.

Referee Development Manager, David Horlick, david.horlick@liverpoolfa.com, Tel: 0151 523 4488 ext 102

Designated Safeguarding Officer, Gordon Johnson, gordon.johnson@liverpoolfa.com, Tel: 0151 523 4488 ext 114

County Discipline Department, Mark Lloyd, mark.lloyd@liverpoolfa.com, Tel: 0151 523 4488 ext 100