



3rd February 2020

Dear Secretary,

Open Age Adult Football Clubs' Safeguarding Responsibilities

Following on from correspondence you should have received directly from the National FA last month.

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 requirement 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 Gordon Johnson, Liverpool County FA's DSO for information on 'How to become a Verifier')
- Holding DBS check verification 'clinics' on specified dates/times
- Offering financial support for DBS checks
- Distribute the FA's '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 FAQ's

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 display the ‘Stay safe and enjoy football poster’ (10.11)
- Adopting the ‘easy read’ Respect Codes of Conduct for your league and requiring your clubs to utilise this resource (10.12)
- Speak to Liverpool County FA’s Disability FDO, Mark Horlick or DSO, Gordon Johnson, 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 FA’s 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.

David Pugh

D. Pugh
Safeguarding Senior Lead
Liverpool County FA

Gordon Johnson

G. Johnson
Designated Safeguarding Officer
Liverpool County FA