



3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

Dear Secretary,

### **Open Age Adult Football Clubs' Safeguarding Responsibilities**

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

We are writing to ensure clubs, at all levels of the game, are clear about their specific safeguarding responsibilities in open age adult football.

Affiliated Football Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures is embedded across youth football and there is information, support and guidance for clubs with under 18 teams to help them to provide children and young people with fun, safe and inclusive football.

The purpose of this letter is to support open age adult football clubs to fully understand their safeguarding responsibilities for under 18s, and adults with disability teams.

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

Please read the sections below and take any actions you need to. Some clubs will already have completed the requirements detailed below; other will be working towards ensuring this applies to all aspects of their club.

If you believe you already meet the requirements detailed below please review the safeguards you have in place across all aspects of your open age adult teams from first team professionals, semi-professionals and amateurs to disability teams, community ventures and reserve teams for both men and women. It is essential that every child (under 18) is afforded the appropriate safeguard at every level of the game and in every team.

Information, guidance, templates and Disclosure and Barring Service FAQs are available via TheFA.com

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

Liverpool County FA ensure to offer support for the leagues and for all grassroots clubs. Clubs in these parts of the football pyramid must ensure they are compliant with the steps outlined in Table 1 and where applicable Table 2.

All clubs can contact Liverpool County FA's Designated Safeguarding Officer, Gordon Johnson for further clarification and or support.

<b>Table 1</b>
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**Clubs with under 18s in open age adult teams (including disability teams) are required to:**

<p><b>1.</b> Adopt and adhere to Affiliated Footballs Safeguarding Children Policy <a href="http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-footballs-safeguarding-framework">http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-footballs-safeguarding-framework</a> View section 1: 1.4 Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures Club Template</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Identify which teams have 16 and 17 years old players</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Identify the coaches/managers (including assistant coaches/managers) and medics for these teams and list them on The FA Whole Game System alongside the registered team. This can be done by the club secretary, assistant secretary or if the club has a youth team by the club welfare officer (youth teams).</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Support coaches/managers (including assistant coaches/managers) and medics working with 16 and 17 year olds to complete an FA DBS Check <a href="http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks">http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks</a> View section 3: 3.1 Safer recruitment of volunteers 3.5 Eligibility of roles 3.7 DBS FAQs</p>
<p><b>5.</b> Provide 16 and 17 year old players with safeguarding information <a href="http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-7-children-and-young-people-under-18s">http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-7-children-and-young-people-under-18s</a> View section 7: 7.1 Know you rights in football</p>

In support of the roll out of the Affiliated Football Safeguarding Adults Policy, clubs with open age adult disability teams, need to take the following simple steps to safeguard adults. If this applies to any teams in your club, please read on.

**Table 2  
Clubs with open age adult disability teams are also asked to:**



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| <p><b>1.</b><br/>Adopt and share with members the Affiliated Football 'Safeguarding Adults Policy'<br/>NB; 'easy read' versions are available for adults with learning disabilities<br/><a href="http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-10-safeguarding-adults">http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-10-safeguarding-adults</a><br/>View section 10<br/>10.5 Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures</p>         |
| <p><b>2.</b><br/>Appoint a Club Welfare Officer (Adult Disability Teams) and upload their name to The FA's Whole Game System<br/><a href="http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-10-safeguarding-adults">http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-10-safeguarding-adults</a><br/>View section 10:<br/>10.2 Appointing Club and League Welfare Officers<br/>10.3 Adding a Club Welfare Officer to Whole Game System</p> |
| <p><b>3.</b><br/>Encourage volunteers and staff to complete the newly launched free, online FA Safeguarding Adults course<br/><a href="http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-10-safeguarding-adults">http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-10-safeguarding-adults</a><br/>View section 10:<br/>10.4 How to access online course</p>  |
| <p><b>4.</b><br/>Identify and list coaches/managers (including assistant coaches/managers) on The FA Whole Game System alongside the registered team.</p>  |

**Please note;** The FA is currently considering with the government's Disclosure and Barring Service the circumstances in which DBS Checks may be required for people working with adults (over 18s) in open age disability football. Further guidance will be provided in due course.

Thank you for supporting football to safeguard adults and children safe across every level of the game. If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Johnson, Liverpool County FA's Designated Safeguarding Officer.

Best wishes for a positive and successful season end, and start to the 2020-21 Season.

*David Pugh*

*Gordon Johnson*

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Chief Executive  
Liverpool County FA

G. Johnson  
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Liverpool County FA