



GUIDANCE NOTES NO:

**3.5**

# ELIGIBILITY OF ROLES

**FOR CLUBS**

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**FOR ALL**

# FOOTBALL ROLES AND ELIGIBILITY FOR DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS, CHILD WORKFORCE

To support grassroots clubs to abide by their legal requirements, following considerable consultation and in line with Government guidance, The FA has defined the roles that are eligible for different levels of checks in football. It is FA policy that checks will be carried out in football for all 16-year-olds plus in eligible roles.

In making its decisions on which roles are supervised and which are not, The FA has utilised the Government guidance, alongside the sport sector guidance on supervision, developed by the Sport and Recreation Alliance and the Child Protection in Sport Unit.

Supervision is defined by the legislation as:

- Regular;
- Day to Day;
- Reasonable in all circumstances for protecting children; and
- Carried out by someone in Regulated Activity.

Table 1 provides a list of roles that are eligible for a DBS Enhanced Check: with Children's Barred List and Table 2 provides a list of roles that are not eligible, however please note these lists are not exhaustive, if you require further guidance on whether a role is eligible and / or whether it is supervised or not, please contact The FA DBS Unit via [FAChecks@TheFA.com](mailto:FAChecks@TheFA.com) or call **0115 969 4618**.



# TABLE 1: ROLES ELIGIBLE FOR FA DBS CHECKS

POSITION/ROLE	NOTES	ELIGIBILITY FOR A DBS ENHANCED DBS CHECK?	REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY	IS IT REGULATED ACTIVITY & ELIGIBLE FOR DBS ENHANCED DBS CHECK WITH CHILDREN'S BARRED LIST?
Football Coach working with under-18 players (this includes those working in open-age adult football with 16/17-year-old players)	Includes all coaches, whether they have assistant in title or not	Yes	Unsupervised; teaching, training and instruction, caring for and supervising	Yes
Football Team Manager working with under-18 players (this includes those working in open-age adult football with 16/17-year-old players)	As above	Yes	Unsupervised; teaching, training and instruction, caring for and supervising	Yes
Club Welfare Officer	Work through role with under-18s	Yes	Unsupervised; teaching, training and instruction, caring for and supervising, advice & guidance on well being	Yes
Under-18 Chaperone: Travel, Trips, Tours and tournaments	e.g. tour with overnight stay for under-18s	Yes	Caring for or supervising and overnight	Depends on frequency and supervision if not overnight
Regular Club Driver only for children (not private arrangement between parents)	Depends whether driver is alone with under-18s as part of driving responsibilities	Yes	Unsupervised caring for or supervising	Depends on frequency and supervision
Host Family	But not if private arrangement between families.	Yes	Unsupervised caring for and overnight	Yes
First-aider/medic working with under-18s	Weekly involvement with football team	Yes	Treatment and therapy	Depends on frequency
Referee (youth football only)	Including all referee mentors, observers and coaches under Level 4	Yes (Enhanced)	Criteria as per coaches	Yes (Barred list Check)



# TABLE 2: ROLES THAT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FA DBS CHECKS

ROLE OFTEN REQUESTED BUT NOT ELIGIBLE	REASONS	IMPORTANT NOTE
Club secretary	Not coaching, teaching or instructing, caring for, or supervising, advising or guiding on wellbeing, not driving for the organisation, or providing first aid on a frequent basis	<p>Those holding these roles may be eligible for an Enhanced DBS Check if they have involvement within other areas of football activity - where their role does involve caring for or supervising children and young people.</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <p>Mrs Ball is chairperson of Wyhampton FC and is also the under-13 assistant coach. As chairperson Mrs Ball is not eligible for a check, however she is eligible for an Enhanced DBS Check with children's barring list check for her coaching role, whether referred to as coach or assistant coach. As such, a check should be completed for her role as coach but not chairperson.</p>
Treasurer		
Chairman		
Parent helper/rep		
Clubhouse manager		
Groundskeeper		
Caretaker		
Photographer		
Website administrator		
Social network monitors and managers		
Youth section administrator		
Parent running the line		
Youth forum membership (meetings)	Playing is not regulated activity	
Players (including captains)		

For further information on The FA's DBS Checks process:

- Refer to the FAQs section of TheFA.com via [TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/the-right-people---recruitment-crc](https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/the-right-people---recruitment-crc)
- Email: [FAChecks@TheFA.com](mailto:FAChecks@TheFA.com)
- Tel: 0115 969 4618



# USE THE ONLINE SAFEGUARDING SERVICE: A USEFUL TOOL

The Online Safeguarding Service provides a 'club status report' that allows Club Welfare Officers (CWO) to view the DBS Check status of individuals attached to the club and provides the date of their last DBS Check.

Access to the Online Safeguarding Service is via The FA's online Whole Game System portal. To access Whole Game System [click here](#) or follow this link [wholegame.TheFA.com/Account/Login](https://www.wholegame.thefa.com/Account/Login)

You will need your FA Number (FAN). If you are new to your role you can create or retrieve your FAN on the Whole Game System log-in page. For more information on the Whole Game System click on the 'Help' tab once logged on.





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