



NORTH RIDING FA REFEREE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

OVERVIEW

As you know safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and this document has been created to inform you about the role you play in keeping under 18s safe. North Riding County FA's Referees Department believes that every one of our match officials has the responsibility to ensure that all participants involved within the game has the same protection irrespective of their individual circumstances. This is vital in ensuring that we as match officials create a safe and enjoyable football environment for all participants.

This document contains the relevant information on what requirements you must adhere to as a registered North Riding County FA match official in respect of your Safeguarding qualification.

YOUR ROLE AS A MATCH OFFICIAL

As a referee, you are an impartial figure, able to see how teams and clubs manage and keep under 18s safe. You have the opportunity to demonstrate best practice on and off the field and to recognise and refer concerns. As a role model to young players and referees, this is important.

North Riding County FA match officials who are in a role that involves direct contact with children or vulnerable people will be required to have the necessary Safeguarding Qualifications as well as possessing an in-date DBS. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in a suspension.

SAFEGUARDING QUALIFICATIONS

Recognising the important role you play and the need to keep everyone up to date with safeguarding awareness, The FA is now requiring match officials to renew their safeguarding training every three years. This will ensure referees are in the same position as, for example, licensed coaches.

Each referee who is required to update their Safeguarding qualification will be contacted by a member of the Referee's Department with details on how to do so. It is then down to the referee to ensure that they comply with the relevant Safeguarding requirements. Failure to ensure that you possess the required qualification will mean that you will not be able to register as a referee.

<u>Who?</u>	Referees in youth football and observers, coaches and mentors operating below Supply Leagues must possess an in-date Safeguarding qualification. Referees who officiate in open age football only and observers, coaches and mentors who operate only in Supply Leagues or above will not be required to renew their safeguarding qualification.
<u>How?</u>	This will depend on the type of training you last completed.

	<p>Match officials who have never completed a face to face three hour Safeguarding Children Workshop will now be required to do so when their current Safeguarding qualification expires.</p> <p>Those who have previously attended a Safeguarding Children Workshop will be able to take the free online recertification course.</p>
<u>When?</u>	Your safeguarding training must be in date in order to be able to register for season 2020-2021. However, we do advise you to complete your training as soon as possible.

CONCERNED ABOUT SOMETHING YOU HAVE SEEN OR HEARD

If you have either heard or witnessed something that you are concerned about, then this can be reported to a member of the Refereeing Department or our Safeguarding Department. Alternatively, any concerns can be reported directly to the Police, NSPCC, ChildLine, Child Exploitation & Online Protection or FA Safeguarding Team. Contact details for each of the above can be found at the bottom of this document.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

Part of your roles and responsibilities as a match official requires you to report any misconduct that occurs during your matches. It is also a possibility that at some point during your refereeing career, you may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing although these instances are few and far between. Should you be required to attend a disciplinary hearing then you will be contacted by a member of the Referee's Department who will discuss with you any concerns that you may have as well as providing you with the necessary support that you may need.

Referees are reminded that all misconduct should be submitted within 48 hours of the match being completed. This should be done via the Whole Game System and should take no longer than 10 minutes. If you require any assistance in submitting your discipline reports then please contact a member of the Referee's Department.

DO YOU FEEL THREATENED?

As a North Riding County FA match official, your safety is our number one priority. Should you ever feel threatened whilst refereeing then please ensure that you immediately leave the venue in a safe capacity. Ideally find the help of a supportive adult who can ensure that you are safely escorted away. Avoid doing or saying anything that may make the situation worse.

You should then report the incident at your earliest opportunity to both the Discipline and Referee Departments. A member of the Referee's Department will then contact you to offer further support and guidance.

KEY CONTACTS

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NRCFA 24 Hour Referee Support Hotline

0330 122 2932

NSPCC

www.nspcc.org.uk

0808 8005 000

ChildLine

www.childline.org.uk/get-support

0800 1111

Police

Immediate Threat: 999

Non-Immediate: 101

The FA Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@thefa.com

0800 169 1863

North Riding FA Safeguarding

Safeguarding@northridingfa.com

Child Exploitation & Online Protection

www.ceop.police.uk