

Online Safeguarding for Committee Members course



FAQ May 2017

On 3 April 2017 The FA's new, free online Safeguarding for Committee Members course was launched.

So far over 7,000 people have taken the course and feedback is extremely positive.

FAQs

Who must take this course?

In order for affiliation to be approved for the season 2017-2018 those people holding the following positions will need to complete the course:

- Club Secretary
- Club Chairman
- Club Welfare Officer

If a committee member holds more than one post the course only needs to be taken once. The award will then show against all the posts the person holds.

For affiliation periods from 2018-19 season onwards the person holding the Treasurer post must also complete the course.

Other club officials may access the course, although for them it is entirely optional at this stage.

If a person holds more than one post do they need to do the course twice?

No. If a committee member holds more than one post the course only needs to be taken once. The award will then show as complete against all the posts the person holds.

If a Club only has one post holder do they need to find other people to do the course?

No. The only requirement is for the person or people holding the post(s) of club secretary, club chairman and club welfare officer to complete the course. If someone holds more than one position they only need take the course once and it will show as complete against all roles they hold.

Is this a new requirement?

It has always been recommended that committee members should have safeguarding training and this new online course has been tailored to meet their needs. It will help committee members understand their role in safeguarding children and support them to work with their club welfare officer to embed safeguards throughout club activities.

How long does the course take?

This depends on the person taking the course. Most people say it takes about an hour but some spend more time reflecting than others so it could be shorter or longer depending on the post holder.

What does the course cover?

The content includes a reflection on effective committees, the role of the committee in CRCs and safer recruitment, building a safe club and recognising and reporting harm and abuse.

Who else should be encouraged to do this course?

All club committee members are encouraged to take this course.

League committee members can take the course if they choose, as this will support them in understanding club requirements.

The course is 'open access' so clubs have the freedom to ensure committee members in different roles can access it.

If committee members have taken other safeguarding training do they still need to do this?

Yes, the person or people holding the secretary, chairperson, and club welfare officer roles (and by 18-19 season the treasurer), must take this course even if they have taken other FA safeguarding training.

While messages are consistent in all safeguarding training these are approached from a different perspective and this course is designed to help the committee work together with a shared understanding.

Please note if a committee member holds more than one post the course only needs to be taken once. The award will then show as complete against all the posts the person holds.

Does the course replace any other training?

The course does not replace any other training. Coaches who are committee members will still need to take the 'How We Support' (Safeguarding Children), two hour course as part of their FA Level 1 in Coaching Football course. They'll also need to keep this safeguarding record up to date if they are a named coach in a Charter Standard Club or are a licensed coaches club member.

Club welfare officers will still need to take their Safeguarding Children Workshop and Welfare Officer Workshop before they can take up post.

Can clubs affiliate before completing this course?

Clubs can submit their affiliation details but County FAs will not approve affiliation until club secretaries, club chairpersons and club welfare officers have completed the course and this is indicated on the Whole Game System.

Please note if a committee member holds more than one post the course only needs to be taken once. The award will then show as complete against all the posts the person holds.

How has communication been managed?

Emails have gone directly to committee members.

What device can be used to access the course?

The course can be accessed on almost any web-enabled device. For an optimal learning experience it is recommended that learners complete the course on a laptop or computer using the Google Chrome browser. However, the course can also be accessed from most mobile and tablet devices.

How long is the course valid for?

Three years. After three years the certificate will expire and we will provide updates for committee members.

What if I have got another question?

Please email education@thefa.com