



Safeguarding in Open Age Football

Requirements for clubs
and leagues

Leagues

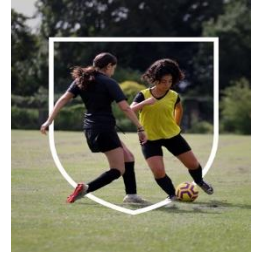
Adult leagues with open age teams where 16/17 year old players are registered are now asked to identify a league member who can take on the role of League Safeguarding Advocate.

The League Safeguarding Advocate is required to complete the free Safeguarding For All course and the free Safeguarding Adults course on the FA's Boot Room:

<https://thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications/safeguarding-courses>

The purpose of this role is to:

- Proactively promote Safeguarding in all registered clubs
- Promote the FA's Safeguarding information available on TheFA.com
- Ensure Safeguarding is a standard item at Committee meetings/AGM's
- Monitor data reports showing teams that register 16/17 year olds
- Support clubs to identify local DBS verifiers
- Remind clubs of their responsibilities, listed on the next page.



Clubs

Every affiliated football club that includes players under the age of 18, need to make sure that they have appropriate safeguards in place. This includes open age teams with 16/17 year olds so if your club has teams that fit in to this or if you are planning to include 16/17 year olds in open age teams then this information is useful for you.

The Disclosure and Barring Service, which is the government agency for making sure that vetting and checks are done for people working with U18's have said that managers working with 16/17 year olds will be in "regulated activity" and as such will require a DBS check to make sure that they are suitable.



Football clubs are encouraged to:

- Be aware of any open age team in their club that has 16/17 year olds registered as players.
- Make sure that this team has a manager listed on WGS
- Initiate the managers DBS on WGS if the club has youth teams and has a GBG PIN
- Ask the County FA for their DBS information if it is not possible to do the DBS through WGS
- Ask all managers and committee members to complete the free training Safeguarding For All
- Encourage all club officials to take the free Safeguarding Adults course. Courses can be found at this link: <https://thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications/safeguarding-courses>
- Identify a suitable club member to become a Welfare Officer and begin the training
- Create a Safeguarding section on their website and promote to players and parents so that people know how to report concerns about U18 player welfare or issues
- Issue any U18 player the following link so that they can check the FA information on knowing their rights: <https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-7-children-and-young-people-under-18s>

The FA have a range of information available to Clubs which is useful for recruitment and for knowing how the Safeguarding systems work. Open age clubs might never have had to implement this level of safe practice before so it is worth checking this information out to help shape how the club will adapt. Follow the link below for the guidance:

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-11-the-complete-downloads-directory>