GUIDANCE FOR ADULT CLUBS WITH 16 & 17yrd OLDS PLAYERS 2021/22 SEASON

Wiltshire County FA fully appreciate that there are many 16 and 17-year-old players looking to play in Open Aged Football. This is a fantastic opportunity for these young players to progress and be challenged both technically and physically, however officials, managers and players must also recognise that these young players are still minors.

There are many ways that a club can ensure these young players are enjoying their football in a safe environment:

• Manager/Coach should speak with the U18's player about their expectations of joining the team, including playing time and their role within the team.

• Manager/Coach to discuss with the U18's player and his/her parents about the changing room environment and what can be expected, i.e. swearing, banter and alcohol being consumed.

• Ensure that the U18's player feels comfortable should he/she not wish to change in the changing room but arrives and departs wearing his/her kit.

• Encourage your team captain to mentor the young player throughout the season and ensure the other players on the team are mindful of the player's age.

• Safeguard U18's player at all times, but particularly during matches to ensure that he/she is not subjected to verbal or physical abuse by opposing players trying to intimidate them.

• Manager/Coach should make the match official aware that you have an U18's player on your team.

• Discourage demeaning initiations for the young players.

• Consider travel arrangements for fixtures for U18' players.

For further information or guidance on Safeguarding Children and Young People in football please contact Maria.Lai@witlshiref.com or Blair.Keltie@wiltshirefa.com, Designated Safeguarding Officer's on 01793 486 407. Safeguarding@wiltshirefa.com

You can also visit our website –

https://www.wiltshirefa.com/about/rules-and-regulations/safeguarding-and-welfare

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