



**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

Safeguarding in Open Age Football

Requirements for clubs

Sheffield & Hallamshire County Football Association Ltd
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Safeguarding in Open Age Football

Every affiliated football club that includes players under the age of 18, need to make sure that they have appropriate safeguards in place. New Safeguarding standards have been shared by the FA which will link in with affiliation.

Club Welfare Officer (adult teams) and team officials

All clubs with an open-age adult teams need to have a named Club Welfare Officer (adult teams) at the point of affiliation for the 23/24 season



- These Welfare Officers need to have an FA accepted DBS at the point of affiliation from the 24/25 season onwards
- All Club Welfare Officers, (adult teams) need to have undertaken the Player Welfare course at the point of affiliation from the start of the 24/25 season
- All open age team officials where there are U18 players need to have a FA DBS and have taken the Player Welfare qualification to affiliate in the 24/25 season

Why do we need a DBS?

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 need to have an enhanced FA DBS which has been accepted on to the WGS.

- Be aware of any open age team 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 you have a GBG PIN through your youth teams
- Ask the County FA for our DBS information if you're not set up to do the DBS through WGS

What else does our club need to do?

- Adopt the FA's Safeguarding Children Policy Club Template which can be found on this FA webpage in the resources at the bottom <https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-footballs-safeguarding-framework>
- Identify any 16 and 17 year old players and make sure that they have the relevant Safeguarding information by sending them the following link: <https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-7-children-and-young-people-under-18s>

Safeguarding in Adult disability football

To affiliate an adult disability club for 23/24, All Adult Disability Clubs must have a named Club Welfare Officer who has taken the FA Safeguarding adults e learning course
<https://thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications/safeguarding-courses>

Additional information

The FA have a range of Safeguarding information for clubs which is useful in planning your next steps. 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>

Club responsibilities

- **Reporting:** any safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to our County FA DSO. This is a regulatory requirement. It can often be hard to decide if something is poor practice or abuse, so please report *any* concerns to the relevant Club/League Welfare Officer or our County FA DSO. It is not your duty to decide if something is poor practice or abuse. But it is your responsibility to report. Contact details can be found at the end of this letter.
- **Confidentiality and data:** if you receive private information about a child or adult at risk you must keep it secure. That does not mean keeping secrets if there is, or maybe, a risk. Again, pass any concerns to our County FA DSO.
- **Whistleblowing:** if you suspect or believe a safeguarding concern has not been properly addressed you can whistle-blow by emailing safeguarding@TheFA.com or if needs be to the NSPCC CPSU via their contact us page form at <https://thecpsu.org.uk/contact-us/> or NSPCC helpline Tel. 0808 800 5000