

Update from Natalie Wood – DCFA Football Development Officer – January 2022

As The FA is continually looking to build upon the safeguarding standards within football I wanted to get in touch with you regarding club represented U18's in open aged football.

It is the intention of the FA to require clubs with teams, involved in adult football, who have U18 players to have an in date FA DBS at the point of affiliation for the 2022/2023 season. With this in mind it is important that Adult Leagues too, look at their safeguarding responsibilities. I have looked at the number of U18's playing in the Dorset League and have attached the list to this email for your reference.

As a League that has teams within it that have U18 players, it is essential that an Adult League Safeguarding Advocate is put in place to help advise and support those players if needed. This can be in the form of a League Welfare Officer, and it is fantastic to know that your league already has this in place!

The purpose of an Adult League Safeguarding Advocate, (Welfare Officer) is to:

- Proactively promote safeguarding with all registered clubs.
- Promote The FA's Safeguarding information available on The FA.com.
- Ensure safeguarding is a standard item at Committee Meetings/AGM.
- Monitor data reports showing teams that register players aged 16/17-years-old.
- Support clubs to identify local DBS Verifiers.
- Adopt and adhere to the Affiliated Football Safeguarding Children Policy
- Support coaches/managers (including assistant coaches/ managers) and medics working with 16/17-year-olds to complete an FA DBS Check
- Provide 16/17-year-old players with safeguarding information

With the above in mind I have added some links below which provide a wealth of resources that you will find useful. They will hopefully help should you find clubs/managers/coaches/players get in touch with any safeguarding queries or guidance requests.

The link below offers good advice and good practice around recruiting Volunteers and DBS Checks:

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-3-safer-recruitment-and-dbs-checks>

The below link is regarding children's rights and responsibilities. It includes further links to national organisations that can be referred to with regards to Safeguarding:

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-7-children-and-young-people-under-18s>

The below link has a bank of Safeguarding policies and procedures documents that you may find useful:

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-footballs-safeguarding-framework>

As always, should you require any further advice or if I can assist with any of the above please do get in touch.

With kind regards
Natalie



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