

Hampshire FA Safeguarding Presentation for Youth Leagues 2023-24 Season



Hampshire FA Safeguarding Team

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Chief Executive: Neil Cassar

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How does the Safeguarding team operate?



Know how to report concerns

It is not your job to decide whether or not a child or young person is being abused – however it is your responsibility to share your concerns

Ensure the immediate safety of the child – contact the police or emergency services if necessary

- Contact your Youth League Welfare Officer for advice
- Contact the DSO/DDSO at the County FA – safeguarding@hampshirefa.com
- FA Safeguarding team – safeguarding.children@thefa.com
- NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

What MUST be referred to the Safeguarding Team

When an individual now or previously involved in football activity in any capacity has or is alleged to have:

- Been involved in the harm, abuse or exploitation of a child and/or Adult at Risk
- Committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or Adult at Risk
- Committed a sexual offence against anyone (adult or child)
- Behaved in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children and/or Adults at Risk
- Been subject to previous low-level concern that has been actioned by the club and a further low-level concern has been raised

All cases that are referred to a statutory agency (i.e. Police, Social Services, LADO) must be referred to the FA Safeguarding Team



What is a low-level concern?

A low-level concern is a behaviour which falls below the standard required by a club as set out in their codes of conduct. The behaviour may not be immediately dangerous or intentionally harmful, but it does set a poor example and if it were to continue, it might lead to harm or put a child in danger.

To allow low-level concerns to continue unchallenged may result in an environment developing in which abuse may be able to take place.

Learning from survivors of non-recent sexual abuse in football has shown that often the abuse started as a low-level concern. It normalises behaviour which is unacceptable and should not be condoned.

Consider: context of behaviour, environment, whether there are any current or previous concerns. If in doubt, call us



Examples of low-level concerns

- Having favourites
- Using punishments that humiliate or harm children
- Direct online communication with U18s
- Not adhering to guidance when transporting children
- Providing 1:1 coaching without any supervision or the presence of other adults
- Having a win at all costs mentality and failing to be gracious in defeat
- Condoning rule violations by players and not adhering to the laws and spirit of the game
- Smoking, consuming alcohol and/or being under the influence of drugs during coaching sessions
- Putting performance over the wellbeing and safety of others
- Adults joining in with training

Is this an isolated concern or are there multiple concerns?

Handling low-level concerns

Anyone witnessing a behaviour indicative of a low-level concern or having it referred to them by another adult or child must refer the information to the Club Welfare Officer in the first instance.

CWO should contact the Safeguarding Team for advice and to discuss the appropriate course of action. If it is decided that the matter is a low-level concern to be dealt with by the club, it should be referred to the CWO and Club committee to be dealt with asap.

A pattern of low-level concerns could indicate a risk to children or Adults at Risk – record keeping is important to identify patterns of behaviour.

Follow up in writing outlining the actions taken by the club. If there is a repeat, refer to the Safeguarding Team – safeguarding@hampshirefa.com

Club Officials – Training Requirements This Season

From the 2022/23 season all youth football coaches (managers, assistant managers, coaches and assistant coaches) will be expected to hold in-date FA Safeguarding Children course (completed either as a standalone online course or through the Introduction to Coaching course) **This will be mandatory for affiliation 2023/24 season**

<https://learn.EnglandFootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-children-course>

Course to be renewed every 2 years. Any issues:
education@thefa.com



The screenshot shows the 'Safeguarding Children Course' page on the England Football Learning website. The page features a navigation bar with 'GET STARTED', 'COURSES', 'SESSIONS', 'ARTICLES', 'ONGOING LEARNING', and 'HELP'. The main heading is 'Safeguarding Children Course' with a sub-heading 'COURSES'. Below the heading is a description: 'This course provides club representatives, coaches, referees and managers with an awareness of best practice in safeguarding children in football.' A 'COURSE OVERVIEW' section is visible, containing the following details:

Venue:	Duration:	Minimum Age:	Price:
Online	2 hours	16	£30

A red button labeled 'SIGN IN TO START COURSE' is located at the bottom right of the overview section. The background image shows a coach in a green jacket interacting with children in yellow vests.

Upcoming changes to FA Education courses

Introduction to Coaching Football – Update: Following a review of our Introduction to Coaching Football course, changes are being made to the course which will come into effect from August 2023. Full details of the changes will be shared soon, but we want to update you on one of the fundamental changes as it may impact on the approach clubs take to get your coaches through the Safeguarding Children Course to satisfy the new affiliation requirements.

Both our Safeguarding Children and Introduction to First Aid in Football courses are being removed from I2CF. They will need to be completed separately and will serve as prerequisites for I2CF. This change is being made to keep the game safe by allowing learners to access both courses on demand. The cost of I2CF will be reduced to reflect these changes.

Anyone who enrolls on an I2CF course which is taking place before 1st August 2023 will still complete Safeguarding Children **as part of the course, but after this date it will need to be completed separately.**

Which course for which role?

Coach/Assistant Coach (youth teams)

- FA DBS Check
- Safeguarding Children (for affiliation to 23/24 season)
- Introduction to First Aid (someone with this qualification should be at each session)
- Introduction to Coaching (includes Safeguarding Children and First Aid; each team in an England Accredited club should have as a minimum one coach with this qualification). Coaches without Introduction to Coaching course should complete FA Playmaker.

Coach/Assistant Coach (open age teams)

- FA DBS if U18 players registered - recommended now, required 24/25 season
- If U18 players registered – Safeguarding Children **OR** new Player Welfare Course (launching Summer 2023) – recommended now, required 24/25 season

Young Volunteers (age 14-16)

- FA Playmaker (includes Safeguarding for All module)
- FA DBS required once volunteer reaches age of 16

Parents/Parent Helpers (not involved in coaching)

- Safeguarding for All
- Safeguarding Awareness for Parents/Carers

Which course for which role?

Club Welfare Officer (youth teams)

- FA DBS Check
- Safeguarding Children
- Welfare Officer course
- Safeguarding for Committee members

Youth Club and League Committee Member (no other coaching role)

- Safeguarding for Committee Members

Club Welfare Officer (adult teams)

- All Open Age teams are required to have a named CWO at point of affiliation 2023/24 season
- FA DBS if U18 players registered
- New Player Welfare Course, launching Summer 2023 – required for 24/25 season

Coach/Assistant Coach (open age teams)

- FA DBS if U18 players registered - recommended now, required 24/25 season
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WGS changes and Club Portal



WGS Safeguarding Tab has been shut down – when a user clicks onto the Safeguarding tab, they will be redirected to the new Safeguarding Page within Club Portal.

<https://clubs.thefa.com/>

Grassroots Technology Team Club Portal Webinar: <https://youtu.be/zi4Qkn5KYCM>

For more guidance see the Grassroots Technology Page:

<https://grassrootstechnology.thefa.com/support/solutions/articles/48001161507-adding-a-team-official>

DBS Checks – who needs a DBS check?

Volunteers over the age of 16 who are involved in regulated activity. These roles could be managing, training, coaching, supervising. They include giving advice or guidance on well-being, caring for children or driving a vehicle solely for children on behalf of a club or organisation.

- ANY Football Coach working with Under 18 players (this includes coaches in open-age football with 16/17 year old players) – this includes ALL coaches, whether they have assistant in the title or not
- Football Team Manager working with Under 18 players (this includes those working in open-age football with 16/17 year old players)
- Club Welfare Officer
- Under 18 Chaperone e.g. for tours with overnight stays for Under 18s
- Regular Club Driver only for children (*not private arrangement between parents*)
- First aider/medic working with Under 18s
- Referees (youth football)

All new volunteers must be approved by the Club Committee

DBS application process

All club DBS checks should now be started via the Club Portal – if you have not yet started processing DBS checks in this way, please contact safeguarding@hampshirefa.com for support.

- Add volunteer as a DBS applicant via Club Portal
- DBS applicant then logs into the Whole Game System – My DBS tab – click green select button next to the club name. They should then receive an email to start the process
- Club verifier receives notification to verify ID – log into First Advantage website to complete club phase of the application process. Verification of documents must be completed by a named verifier and done in person.
- Ensure payment is completed (by Club or Individual)

The external phase of the DBS check

Once the application is verified and paid for it is processed by the DBS Service via First Advantage

Checks go through a 5 stage process:

1. Application Form received and validated
2. Police National Computer searched
3. DBS Children, DBS Adults and List 99 searched
4. Records held by the Police Search
5. Certificate Printed

At Stage 5, the First Advantage site will show the application as green

BUT THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE FA PROCESS

- If there is no content – certificate automatically accepted on WGS
- If there is content, disclosures team will request certificate from applicant

**THE DBS IS ONLY FA ACCEPTED WHEN IT IS
GREEN ON THE WHOLE GAME SYSTEM / CLUB PORTAL**



Open Age Football Update

All Open Age club officials with U18 players in their teams should have an FA DBS check and hold a safeguarding qualification – new Player Welfare Course being launched in Summer 2023, anyone currently holding Safeguarding Children qualification is considered compliant but will need to complete the new Player Welfare course when SG Children course expires.

From 2024/25 Season, all team officials MUST have in-date DBS check at all times

All Open Age clubs will need a Welfare Officer at the point of affiliation for 2023/24 season (excluding clubs with only Vets and/or walking football teams). For clubs with U18 players, the Welfare Officer will need DBS and completion of the new Player Welfare Course – this will be mandatory from 2024/25 season



Imbedding Equality, Diversity & Inclusion within local clubs

Our goal is to make football accessible to everyone in Hampshire, regardless of ability, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, age, or religious belief.

We believe clubs play a crucial role in making football enjoyable for all.

We'll provide guidance on the FA's policies and strategies to ensure that everyone feels included.

Our Community Engagement & Inclusion officer will attend CWO meetings and shed light on a different topic each time.

Please complete our short survey to let us know which topics interest you:

<https://forms.office.com/e/f58BujGLgR>

CWOs will receive EDI updates throughout the 2023-24 season.



Upcoming dates/ updates

Play safe Weekend- 30th September-1st October

The 2022 Play-Safe weekend was moved back due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Moving the date, whilst appropriate due to the circumstance, was also deemed better for Club/League volunteers coming after the peak time for affiliation/player registration and season kick off.

