



Respect



Safeguarding Children - Report Your Concerns

Let's make football safe, not sorry

Creating fun, safe football environments is central to safeguarding children.

Most children and young people have a fantastic experience through football - but sadly, some don't.

This might be down to over-competitive parents and coaches shouting and constantly criticising them from the sidelines - the kind of behaviour that the FA's Respect programme is designed to address. Or it might be due to some other kind of abusive behaviour towards them.

Safeguarding Children is everyone's responsibility and having welfare officers in all clubs and leagues with youth teams is crucial to The FA's simple three part approach to safeguarding. This includes:

- Getting the right people involved - seeking references and CRB checks.
- Creating a safe environment - codes of conduct, education and best practice.
- Promoting clear systems - to deal with any concerns - policy and procedures.

If you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns - no action is not an option.



If you see a situation involving a child/children that doesn't seem quite right, or makes you feel uncomfortable, you need to report your concerns to the Team's Manager or Coach, by either:

- Speaking with the Team's Manager or Coach
- Completing the 'Report Your Concerns' Form and handing or posting it to the Team's Manager or Coach

If the situation involves the Team Manager or Coach, you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer, by either:

- Speaking with the Club Welfare Officer
- Completing the 'Report Your Concerns' Form and handing or posting it to the Club Welfare Officer

The Club will have procedures in place to deal with any concerns that are reported. Please report your concerns. If you are unsure whether to report a concern or not, then report it anyway. It is better to be safe, not sorry.

If you are worried about a child then you need to report your concerns to the Club Welfare Officer, by either:

- Speaking with the Club Welfare Officer
- Completing the 'Report Your Concerns' Form and handing or posting it to the Club's Welfare Officer

1. If the issue is one of **poor practice** they will either:
 - Deal with the matter themselves or
 - Seek advice from the County FA Welfare Officer
2. If the concern is more serious - **possible child abuse** - where possible contact the County FA Welfare Officer first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Services
3. If the child needs **immediate medical treatment** take them to a hospital or call an ambulance and tell them this is a child protection concern. Let your Club Welfare Officer know what action you have taken
4. If at any time you are **not able to contact your Club Welfare Officer** or the matter is serious then you can either:
 - Contact your County FA Welfare Officer directly
 - Call The FA/NSPCC 24 hour Helpline for advice on **0808 800 5000**
 - Contact the Police or Children's Services

