

SSYFL AGM  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 8pm

### **Safeguarding update**

As a League we had a number of safeguarding referrals last season, which were passed on to Surrey FA., most of which referred to poor coaching practices. Please remind all club coaches and committee members of their duties with regard to keeping children and adolescents safe from harm, both physically and emotionally.

Reminder from the Welfare Officer about the importance of safeguarding, including:

1. Obtaining Criminal Record Checks for all required roles (coaches, cub welfare officers etc.)
2. Making sure safeguarding and first aid training is up to date. Online safeguarding courses are available for refresher training.
3. Following the FA RESPECT Code of Conduct for Young players, Spectators and parents/carers, Coaches, team managers and club officials and Match officials.  
<http://www.thefa.com/my-football/more/respect/respect-resources>
4. Observing and listening to any concerns from both children and adults
5. Reporting any concerns of safeguarding or poor practice appropriately to your Club Welfare Officers or League Welfare officer (Jackie Bisley see details below) or Surrey FA.

If the matter is urgent you can call the NSPCC 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000 – or if it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk, then call the police or children’s social care in your area. We have a duty to protect all children.

If you are concerned that someone may be behaving inappropriately or seeking to groom a child in an online environment, then please use the CEOP reporting button that will take you directly to the team at the National Crime Agency, as well as informing Surrey FA or The FA via [safeguarding@thefa.com](mailto:safeguarding@thefa.com)

Remember that safeguarding includes acceptable standards falling short with poor practice or unacceptable behaviour from players, parents, coaches or match officials.

Poor practice occurs when the needs of children and young people are not given the right priority, so that their welfare is compromised. For example in grassroots football:

- When insufficient care is taken to avoid injuries (e.g. by excessive training or inappropriate training for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players)
- Giving continued and unnecessary preferential treatment to individuals and regularly or unfairly rejecting others (e.g. singling out and only focusing on the talented players and failing to involve the full squad)
- Placing children or young people in potentially compromising and uncomfortable situations with adults (e.g. changing in a 1:1 situation with a young referee)

- Allowing abusive or concerning practices to go unreported (e.g. a coach who ridicules and criticises players who make a mistake during a match)
- Ignoring health and safety guidelines (e.g. allowing young players set up goal posts unsupervised by adults)
- Failing to adhere to the club's codes of practice (e.g. openly verbally abusing the referee)
- When a child's impairment related needs have not been taken into account

More information on Safeguarding can be found at:

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding>

To report any safeguarding concerns the League Welfare Officer details are:

Jackie Bisley

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