

# INTRODUCTION TO SAFEGUARDING DECLARATIONS



ENGLAND  
FOOTBALL



## **NEW - CLUB SAFEGUARDING DECLARATION**

**As part of the 2023/2024 season affiliation process all clubs will be required to commit to a Safeguarding Declaration. Clubs will be acknowledging that they understand and accept their safeguarding responsibilities.**

The Safeguarding Declarations for grassroots football, Youth and Open Age, can be viewed on pages 2-3. Clubs can access the Safeguarding Declarations within the **club portal** once they go live on **02 June 2023**.

Visit - [Safeguarding Declaration FAQs](#)

It's recognised that some clubs provided activity for children under the age of 6, in previous seasons and others are keen to start. Clubs wanting to affiliate U6 activity (for 4 and 5-year-olds) for the new season will be able to do so within PFF under the new title of 'Play Phase', the previous title within WGS - U6 Development will no longer be used.

**Please note:** The FA does not affiliate activity designed for children younger than 4-years-of-age.

Building on the safeguards already in place in youth football, it's essential that every club is clear about the additional safeguards needed for this young age group. Clubs must be able to put all of these safeguards in place effectively. The 'Play Phase' safeguards have been incorporated within the Safeguarding Declaration – Youth Football and are shown below.

**Clubs who choose to run activity for 4 and 5-year-olds will be required to:**

- Ensure a specific safeguarding risk assessment is completed for 'Play Phase' activity.
- Have a formal registration process for each session.
- Proactively communicate the availability of toilets and hand basins.
- Require parents/carers to supervise their child(ren), including intimate care needs.
- Have a 'Missing child protocol'.

**Guidance about the additional safeguards required when providing activity for 4 and 5-year-olds is available for clubs [here](#) and includes:**

- Safeguarding risk assessment template
- Missing child protocol and form
- Safeguarding Requirements Checklist



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## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN DECLARATION YOUTH FOOTBALL

PLAY  
SAFE

### As a club providing youth football we will:

1. Adhere to The FA's Safeguarding Children (SC) Policy and Procedures and proactively share our Club SC Policy with all parents/carers, players, club, and team officials.
2. Proactively share and promote our Club Welfare Officer's details with all parents/carers, players, club, and team officials.
3. Ensure all club officials' details are accurate and up to date on FA systems.
4. Ensure all team officials working directly with under-18s are named on FA systems for every team.
5. Ensure all team officials working directly with under-18s maintain an in-date accepted FA DBS check and have completed all required FA Safeguarding training.
6. Refer safeguarding concerns in line with The FA's SC Policy and Procedures.
7. Ensure there are a minimum of two FA DBS-checked and safeguarding trained adults in place for all club-organised activities.
8. Commit to creating a child-centred culture.

### If we run activity for 4 and 5-year-olds (Play Phase) we will also:

9. Ensure a specific safeguarding risk assessment is completed for our 'Play Phase' activity.
10. Have a formal registration process for each session.
11. Proactively communicate the availability of toilets and hand basins.
12. Require parents/carers to supervise their child(ren), including intimate care needs.
13. Have a 'Missing child protocol'.



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## SAFEGUARDING DECLARATION OPEN-AGE FOOTBALL

### As an Open-Age club we will:

1. Name a Club Welfare Officer (Open-Age Teams).
2. Adopt and adhere to The FA's Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures (where we have U18s) and Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures and proactively share our Club Safeguarding Policies with our members (e.g., players, club officials, parents/carers of under-18s).
3. Ensure all managers and coaches including assistants are named on FA systems for every team.
4. Maintain in-date accepted FA DBS checks for all those working directly with under-18s.
5. Encourage team and club officials to complete the Player Welfare training (available start of 2023/2024 season).
6. Refer safeguarding concerns in line with The FA's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

### If we run Open-Age Disability teams, we will also:

7. Name a Club Welfare Officer (Disability Teams) who has completed The FA's Safeguarding Adults Course, in addition to complying with the Safeguarding Declaration as set out in points 1-6 above.
8. Encourage team and club officials to complete The FA's Safeguarding Adults Course.





# SAFEGUARDING DECLARATIONS FAQS

# Safeguarding Declaration - FAQs

## What is the Safeguarding Declaration?

The Safeguarding Declaration is a statement of intent, a club acknowledges it understands and accepts its safeguarding responsibilities and commits to adhering to these.

## Do clubs have to sign up to a Safeguarding Declaration?

Yes, it's a mandatory requirement to affiliate for the 2023/2024 season.

## How will my club know which Safeguarding Declaration to accept?

The Safeguarding Declaration relevant to the type of football a club wants to affiliate for will be automatically made available via the club portal e.g., Grassroots Youth Football or Barclays Women's Super League.

## Are all the Safeguarding Declarations the same?

In principle yes, each Safeguarding Declaration requires a club to acknowledge it understands and accept its safeguarding responsibilities as outlined in the Declaration or relevant League Safeguarding Standard, License or Rules that are explicitly referred to.

## Where can I find out more about the club portal?

Head to our [Knowledge Base](#) to find out everything you need to know about using the portal

## Where can I get more information/support about implementing safeguards at my club?

You can view The FAs safeguarding information – [here](#) or contact your County FA