



## Common-sense Guidance to Safeguarding and Child Protection

When refereeing young players match officials should:

- **Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when officiating young players**
- **Provide verbal feedback in a positive way during games**
- **Appreciate the needs of the players**
- **Be a positive role model**
- **Recognise that safety is paramount**
- **Explain decisions – most young players are still learning**
- **Do not tolerate verbal abuse**

Officials must not:

- **Change in the same area as young players**
- **Shower with young players – agree with the coaches a timetable**
- **Be alone with young players at any time – if a young player comes into the dressing room ensure another adult is present**
- **Check studs without the coach being present**
- **Administer first aid**
- **Allow a young player to continue playing if you have doubts about their fitness**
- **Tolerate bad language from young players**
- **Engage in any inappropriate contact with young players**
- **Give a lift to a player unless there are other young people or adults in the car and the parents are aware and informed**
- **Take a young player to your home**
- **Overtly criticise young players or use language which may cause the player to lose confidence or self esteem**
- **Make sexually explicit remarks to young players even in fun**

Officials must always:

- **Report, in writing, to the Club or CB Welfare Officer and/or Society Secretary, behaviour by adults which you feel contravenes RFU Child Protection Policy**
  - **Verbal bullying by coaches/parents/spectators**
  - **Physical Abuse by coaches/parents/spectators**
  - **Inappropriate or aggressive contact by an adult to a young person**
  - **Verbal abuse directed at you by young people or adults**

REMEMBER:

*“The welfare of all young people is paramount”*