

Child Protection Guidelines for Match Officials

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 should 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
- 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”