

MINIMUM OPERATING STANDARDS

IN RELATION TO UNDER
16 YEAR OLDS PLAYING
ALONGSIDE ADULT PLAYERS
(THOSE OVER 18 YEARS OLD)



MINIMUM STANDARDS



IF A CHILD, AGED UNDER 16 IS INVOLVED IN ADULT FOOTBALL THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM STANDARDS MUST BE APPLIED:

- Prior to selection the child and their parents or carers must give consent to their participation in adult football.
- A risk assessment should be completed which covers the arrangements in place for safe use of the [changing rooms](#). This should include details of the supervision of U16's whilst in changing facilities, as well as the awareness of coaching staff to any signs of bullying, hazing or inappropriate behaviour. If observed, this should report directly to the club's [Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer](#).
- Consent must also be gained in relation to photography and filming as well as arrangements for [communication and social media](#).
- The player, parents and club must sign a code of conduct.
- There must be a written record of a meeting with the club's Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer, who will introduce themselves and explain their role and how the young person can report any concerns.
- Coaching staff must sign a declaration to the effect that they have read and understood their club's Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy.
- Under Disclosure Scotland legislation, this activity is considered 'incidental'. As such does not require those involved to be members of the PVG scheme.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Where available, maturation data should be used to support the suitability of a U16 to play alongside adults.

COMET App consent guidance for Parents or Carers should be made available.

Coaching staff should not be left unsupervised with U16s at any time.

Rooming arrangements, where applicable should be considered in the context of similar ages. I.e. no one aged over 18 with an U16

Priority must be given to a child's education, in particular around exam times, when additional support should be provided. This may include time off to study and attend exams.

Travel time to and from games should be understood in the context of young people and their education. Longer trips will need to be managed around the young person's school timetable.

Consideration to advertising (including kit advertising) and sponsorship, particularly alcohol and betting, should not involve any person under 18.

Care must be taken during social functions e.g. club awards nights where alcohol will be available.

Use of Host families, where applicable, should follow the required guidance.





CONCLUSION

Safeguarding means taking proactive action to protect children from harm or abuse through appropriate prevention and response measures and promoting their wellbeing. (inside FIFA).

The Scottish FA Board Directive already requires members to implement minimum standards for child wellbeing and protection in Scottish football.

These minimum standards recognise additional challenges that are present in relation to Child Wellbeing and Protection with regards to U16's playing in adult football. They are not meant as a block or barrier to their participation, but to ensure that this can happen in a safe and child centred manner.





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