



Respect



Choosing a Club for your Child

Football clubs have a responsibility to organise football that is fun and safe.

A good club will:

- have a club welfare officer
- have a safeguarding children policy
- welcome questions about their activities
- check that volunteers and staff are suitable to work with children
- have a written code of conduct for club officials, players and spectators
- offer support and training to volunteers and staff
- have a qualified coach(es)
- have a qualified first aider(s)
- have an equality policy
- have a club complaints procedure

Choosing a club that has achieved the Charter Standard Award

will ensure that all of the above are in place. For information on the Charter Standard clubs in your area go to www.TheFA.com and click on 'Find a club'.



Remember:

All affiliated clubs must have a **Safeguarding Children Policy** and a **Club Welfare Officer** in place.

If you want to know more about how a club operates or to get involved with volunteering at a club just ask. A good club will be happy to let you know how they organise things. Most clubs are looking for new members and especially volunteers.

You have a right and a responsibility to ensure that your children are safe at all times.

What should you be wary of?

The following list is courtesy of the NSPCC's 'A guide to help parents and carers choose children's activities', 2006:

- activities where parents are discouraged from staying to watch or become involved
- behaviour or activities that encourage rough play, sexual innuendo or humiliating punishments
- individuals who take charge and operate independently of organisational guidelines
- individuals who show favouritism or personally reward specific children
- encouragement of inappropriate physical contact
- poor communication and lack of parental involvement, leaving you feeling uneasy
- children who drop out or stop going for no apparent reason
- invitations for children to spend time alone with staff or volunteers (or even visit their home)

'Let's make football safe - not sorry'

For more information about The FA's work to safeguard your child go to - www.TheFA.com/footballsafes where you will find best practice guidance, how to report a concern, Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures, how to use the internet safely and more.