



# 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](http://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](http://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.