

Welcome to the first edition of the FAW Safeguarding Team's Quarterly Newsletter. The aim of this Newsletter is to keep all junior clubs and leagues "in the know" when it comes to safeguarding children in football throughout Wales. We aim to update those at the heart of junior football of any news items and developments which may be of interest and assistance to you when seeking to safeguard children. If you have any suggestions or contributions for our next item, then please email us at safeguarding@faw.co.uk.

NSPCC Wales Safeguarding Children in Sports Celebration

Paul Evans, Lindsay Skudra and Sara Williams of the Compliance Department recently attended a celebration evening at the Welsh Assembly offices, which recognised the achievement of Level 2 Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in and through Sports in Wales. The FAW was amongst another 8 other sports in Wales who were part of the pilot to improve Safeguarding Standards in Wales. We're now working towards our Level 3 and will be visiting clubs throughout Wales for your feedback and ideas as to how we can further improve the safeguarding of children in football.



Protection of Freedom (POF) Bill 2010/11 – Update

The POF Bill includes a wide range of measures, including the restricting of the "Vetting and Barring" Scheme and changes to the system of Criminal Records Check. At time of writing the Bill was at its 2nd Reading at the House of Lords and due for line by line examination by the Committee. The Bill is likely to have an impact on the way the FAW operates its CRB program, however this will be communicated to all clubs and academies in plenty of time and no further action is required at present.

Change in Personnel / Details

To ensure that the Safeguarding Team are able to maintain effective communication with all junior football clubs, please ensure that you notify us of any changes, whether with regards to personnel or new addresses, contact telephone numbers and emails. This can simply be done by emailing safeguarding@faw.co.uk or call 02920 435 830.

WHO ARE "SAFEGUARDING"?

The FAW Safeguarding Team, which sits within the FAW Compliance Department is currently made up of Sara Williams (Safeguarding Officer) and Lindsay Skudra (Safeguarding Assistant), whose responsibilities are numerous. The Safeguarding Team is responsible for actively promoting and implementing the safeguarding message as well as administrating the safe recruitment of all into junior football through its CRB program. The Team also works very closely with the Welsh Football Trust and is importantly supported by its network of Safeguarding Officers throughout Wales. If you are after further information, support or advice, please get in touch. Email : safeguarding@faw.co.uk or Call : 02920 435 830.

Behind the Line; Are you Onside?

Behind the Line; Are You Onside? is the FAW campaign which seeks to support the promotion and delivery of the safeguarding message to all those involved in junior football throughout Wales. The Safeguarding Team has exciting projects and workshops coming up in the new year, which in particular aims to address the ever-increasing issue of touchline behaviour. In the meantime, have a look at our website for the updated Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices (2011), which is now available for distribution. Hard copies can also be sent out in the post upon request.

Spreading the Safeguarding Message....

This summer saw the launch of the FAW promotional vehicle. To date the vehicle has travelled to all four corners of Wales, visiting several Primary and Secondary Schools as well as many high-profile events from the National & Urdd Eisteddfod, to the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, to name a few! This gave the FAW Safeguarding Team the opportunity to meet with children from all over Wales in order to spread the safeguarding message. With the aid of leaflets and free merchandise, the Team was able to raise the profile of safeguarding and gain the attention and interest of both children and parents on this important matter.



Accreditation – Update With the window having closed on November 30th 2011, the Safeguarding Team would like extend our thank you and our congratulations to all those clubs who worked tirelessly in order to achieve their Accreditation this year. The central aim of the Accreditation Scheme is to increase regular participation, which is achieved by assisting clubs to deliver a quality assured football programme. Our gratitude therefore also goes out to the Football Development Officers and everyone who assisted and supported the clubs in their journey to achieve their Accreditation status. Please remember the Junior Football Portal is there to assist your club to record and monitor its information; therefore please remember to keep updating it throughout the season.