

GUIDANCE FOR ADULT CLUBS WITH U18's PLAYERS



HCLFC is aware that there are many 16 and 17 year old players looking to play in Open Aged Football. This is a fantastic opportunity for these young players to progress and be challenged both technically and physically, however officials, managers and players must also recognise that these young players are still minors.

There are many ways that the club can ensure these young players are enjoying their football in a safe environment:

- Manager/Coach should speak with the U18's player about their expectations of joining the team, including playing time and their role within the team.
- Manager/Coach to discuss with the U18's player and their parents about the changing room environment for team talks, training environment and travel to and from matches when playing away games. Players and staff may be heard swearing and engaging in banter and alcohol may be consumed after games and on the coach's home from matches. Any form of discrimination or bullying will be challenged immediately.
- All under 18's will be required to change separately from adult players in line with safeguarding procedures. Details of this have been highlighted in the players code of conduct.
- Ensure that the U18's player feels comfortable at all times.
- Encourage your team captain to mentor the young player throughout the season and ensure the other players on the team are mindful of the player's age.
- Safeguard the U18's player at all times, but particularly during matches to ensure that they are not subjected to verbal or physical abuse by opposing players trying to intimidate them.
- Manager/Coach should make the match official aware that you have an U18's player on your team.
- Think about the travel arrangements for both home and away matches for U18' players. Should U18's require transport from a coach or senior player, parental consent is to be gained.

For further information or guidance on Safeguarding Children and Young People at HCLFC please contact Beth van Tilburg (Welfare Officer) 07879779601 or welfare@hullcityladies.com

