

## **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) (SVGA) : The FA's Position Statement, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010**

### **ISA registration and CRB Checks - Guidance for Football**

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) (SVGA), was drafted following the death of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman and aims to prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults. The FA takes its responsibilities as a National Governing Body seriously and will provide Counties, Leagues and Clubs with a systematic approach to the requirements of the Act.

**However the Coalition Government Manifesto published in May 2010 has expressed the intent to review and 'scale back' the Vetting and Barring Scheme.**

To date we have not been able to gather any further information about the scope and speed of this review. We continue to actively seek further clarification, but it is difficult to see how this Scheme can now go fully live in July 2010. As soon as new information is available we will communicate with Counties, Leagues and Clubs and The FA will provide the necessary support materials.

### **Planning for the new Season 2010 – 2011**

Most of the Act does not affect children's football until November 2010, but in preparation for the forthcoming 2010-2011 season, leagues and clubs with youth teams must:

- Continue with the current CRB process
- Note that there is a new application form for CRBs, that must be used from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010, which will be distributed to Clubs by the end of June
- **Ensure new starters working with U18s are CRB checked immediately**
- Ensure everyone helping in U18 football who still does not yet have a CRB check has a check as soon as possible
- Follow FA guidance on reporting concerns. The FA will then report relevant and significant concerns to the new Independent Safeguarding Authority

### **In addition, grassroots football clubs, with youth sections, must:**

- Ensure they have a Club Welfare Officer in place who has an accepted FA CRB check and has completed Safeguarding Children and Welfare Officer training;
- Ensure Club Welfare Officers are familiar with The FA's Online Safeguarding Service - this is The FA's tool for ensuring Club Welfare Officers can see who has been CRB checked. The system also allows Club Welfare Officers to see who has completed their Safeguarding Children training. Go to [www.TheFA.com/footballsafes](http://www.TheFA.com/footballsafes) for access to the Online Safeguarding Service. If you need help with accessing this site contact your County Welfare Officer who will be pleased to help. The Online Service is also available to FL Clubs.

### **Contacts for further information**

If you are unsure who needs a CRB check please contact your local County FA Welfare Officer, Premier League CSO or Football League CPO or ring The FA CRB unit on 0845 210 8080.

