

## Safeguarding Policy Framework

### Procedure for Suspension of Association(s)/Representative Football Teams

1. Through the affiliation process, case work and ongoing monitoring of activity (eg changes to personnel/data updates), NWOs will identify Associations that do not comply with ESFA/FA Safeguarding requirements and seek to work with the Association(s) to conform with requirements.
2. Depending on the nature of non-compliance, a reasonable deadline for full compliance will be set, and specific actions to achieve compliance outlined. NCWOs will advise and support on actions, and monitor completion.
3. If the Association fails to comply with the safeguarding requirements and/ or to work with NWOs to rectify issues NWOs will:
  - a. Recommend the course of action appropriate to protect school children playing under the auspices of the Association. This may result in the suspension of the whole Association, or any or all individuals within it
  - b. Advise the CEO accordingly
  - c. Inform the Association, via the CEO, of the decision(AC/LH/DA)
  - d. Share the decision with any other, related parties and inform the Association of those related parties
  - e. Instruct the elimination of any suspended representative teams from national competitions, where appropriate
  - f. Consider recommending the review of the suspension in the light of submissions from the Association which subsequently address the causes for action/suspension

Associations are reminded of the consequences of Association/ individual team suspensions:

- Insurance cover gained by affiliation is no longer in place
- National competition entries will be withdrawn if the reasons for suspension are not addressed by the next round
- Continuing to play whilst suspended is a breach of FA regulations and may result in the Association being charged
- Failure to follow ESFA instruction in this regard may also result in charges being applied ("E10")

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE TEAM INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE AND ACCURATE ON THE PORTAL TO AVOID UNNECESSARY SUSPENSIONS: REMOVE ANY NON-ACTIVE TEAM INFORMATION AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY.**