

## PROCEDURES

**These procedures apply to Coerver Coaching licensees and to anyone who works on behalf of, or represents Coerver Coaching, or delivers Coerver Coaching programmes, including: Directors, licensees, paid staff and volunteers.**

### 1. DUTY OF CARE AND POSITION OF TRUST

Coerver Coaching is committed to ensuring that all young people taking part in its programs are able to do so in a safe environment, where they are free from harm.

*'Duty of Care' is the duty that rests upon an individual or organisation to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety of any person involved in an activity for which the individual or organisation is responsible.*

This means that anyone working on a Coerver Coaching programme has a duty to safeguard and protect children, to ensure they can participate and enjoy football with the highest possible standards of care.

All Coerver Coaching Licensees, staff and volunteers should have a clear understanding of what their duty is and how this relates to their position in relation to the provision of coaching activities and other services and being responsible for others.

Within a sport such as football, keeping young people safe is all about managing the risk. Whilst all those taking part in sport have a duty to others, we should be aware that in organised activity (e.g. coaching sessions) we have a heightened duty of care. We should also be aware that the principle risks in organised activity extend to the quality of control exercised by those in charge.

Coerver Coaching Licensees, staff and volunteers should therefore take 'all reasonable' steps to safeguard young people at any time where they may be deemed to be responsible - this will include but is not limited to; coaching sessions, matches, training camps etc.

Coerver Coaching Licensees should also be aware that their staff and volunteers are in a '*position of trust*' in relation to the children and young people involved in their programmes.

*A 'position of trust' involves a person in a position of authority over another person.*

Based on the position of trust relationship, there is a specific need to protect young people aged 16 and 17 who, despite reaching the age of consent for sexual activity, are considered to be vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation, in defined circumstances. This includes sexual activity and relationships with adults who hold a position of trust, responsibility or authority in relation to them and, as a result, have a considerable amount of power and influence in their lives.

Providing measures to ensure that children and young people are protected from sexual or any other form of abuse is at the forefront of the Coerver Coaching Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy and Procedures, and practical guidelines for coaches are covered in the Staff Code of Conduct.