



## Leighton United Football Club

### **CLUB REFEREES BEST PRACTICE**

This best practice guidance is applicable when club coaches, helpers, parents/spectators are used to officiate club youth football matches (collectively referred to as 'club referees') when no qualified match official is available. The Bedfordshire Football Association has advised this club role has responsibilities whereby club referees:

- Must have a current FA Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and be registered on the club area of the FA Whole Game System (WGS). DBS checks must be done via a Club Welfare Officer (CWO).
- Must understand the laws of the game. The free FA online course is useful to help gain a better understanding of the game. The link to the course is <https://falearning.thefa.com/course/view.php?id=1804>
- Must have an awareness of safeguarding. The FA free online course Safeguarding for All is a minimum requirement. It can be accessed via the website [thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications/safeguarding-courses](https://thebootroom.thefa.com/learning/qualifications/safeguarding-courses)
- Must be impartial and must not coach their team during the game.
- Have the same powers as a qualified match official and must be given the same respect.
- Must record all red and yellow cards issued and submit to the County FA.
- Must be prepared to provide written statements and attend disciplinary hearings as a witness as requested by the County FA.
- Advice on sin bins, disciplinary reporting and other refereeing related matters can be sought from Jose Gomez, Beds FA Workforce Development Officer, Tel. 01582 567713. Email [jose.gomes@bedfordshirefa.com](mailto:jose.gomes@bedfordshirefa.com)
- The club will only pay fees to formally qualified referees recognized by the FA (in our case predominately the
- Beds FA) who hold full in date accreditations, including a valid Referee Affiliation Number and/or a Referee Association Number and who have been officially allocated to games via the WGS.  
Fees paid will be in line with FA/league specifications.
- Club referees will not be paid fees or costs by the club.