

WWFA Safeguarding

To SSAFL

Good morning,

I hope you're well. Can you please forward the information below to all your clubs with a senior section?

Please see the information below received from the FAW regarding the need for a DBS for any individual in a position of trust within the senior game for the 2026/2027 season. These roles include, but are not limited to, coaches, first aiders, team helpers, and other relevant personnel working closely within the club environment. This will become a mandatory requirement for all relevant roles listed on COMET from the 2026/27 season.

To avoid delays and potential disruption, the FAW strongly encourage clubs to take action as soon as possible as DBS applications can take up to 60 working days to be processed, and leaving applications until the start of the season may result in individuals being unable to undertake their roles. Any individual who does not have a valid FAW DBS recorded on their COMET profile by **1st June** will have their COMET registration terminated. Registrations can then be submitted once a valid FAW DBS check has been added to the individual's profile.

Failure to meet safeguarding requirements may result in appropriate league sanctions, including the inability to fulfil fixtures if the relevant FAW DBS checks are not in place for the relevant personnel.

Please see below for the relevant action that you will need to undertake:

- **If your club already has access to the FAW DBS system and you currently do not have a FAW DBS check**, please contact your Club Safeguarding Officer or Club Secretary so the DBS process can begin as soon as possible.
- **If your club does not currently have a Safeguarding Officer in place, or does not yet have access to the FAW DBS system** - Please contact dbs@faw.cymru and outline where your club is in the process, including the appointed safeguarding officer's COMET ID. The FAW team will be able to support you through the necessary steps.
- **If you already have a FAW DBS certificate that contains content (which is not showing on COMET)** - Please send dbs@faw.cymru the full DBS certificate so this can be risk assessed by the FAW safeguarding team. Failure to engage in our process may result in a non-compliance suspension.
- **If you have an external DBS certificate that is registered on the DBS Update Service** - Please contact dbs@faw.cymru with your details so they can advise on whether your existing DBS can be accepted and in turn, added onto COMET if accepted. Please note that the FAW does not accept external DBS checks unless they are registered with the DBS Update Service.

- **If you already have a DBS certificate that is on your COMET profile –**
- There is no further action required for yourself at this time. However, it is your responsibility to ensure that your FAW DBS remains valid and obtain a new FAW DBS check ahead of your current one expiring.

This information will also be sent via COMET. Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to safeguarding across Welsh football. If you have any further questions, please do get in touch.

Kind regards,

Catherine Richards

West Wales Football Association (WWFA) Area Safeguarding Lead

...