Reporting child sexual abuse in 2026

NSPCC

What you need to know

Keeping children safe in sport has always mattered. Now, the law is making that responsibility clearer and strengthening consequences for those in regulated activity with children.

The exact date for mandatory reporting duty will be set by the Secretary of State through regulations.

What stays the same

- Continue to listen and take worries seriously
- Record what you've seen or heard
- Report concerns to your designated safeguarding lead (DSL), police or children's services
- Follow your safeguarding procedures

Mandated reporters will have a legal duty to

- report all concerns about child sexual abuse to the police or the local authority

Note: nobody can stop you from reporting a concern - preventing reporting will be a crime

If you're worried nothing is happening, contact the police or children's services.

See something, say something



Can everyone answer these questions?

- ☑ I know who the DSL is and how to contact them
- ☑ I know how to report concerns, including of sexual abuse
- ☑ I feel comfortable and confident speaking up
- ☑ I feel confident I can recognise signs of sexual abuse

More people eligible for DBS in 2026

NSPCC

What you need to know

DBS checks are an important part of keeping children safe in sport.

The law is updating how "regulated activity" works, which is the system used to decide who needs a DBS check.

These changes are expected to come into force from 1 Sept 2026.

What stays the same

- DBS checks are one way to help recruit safely
- Not everyone in a club will need or be eligible for a DBS check
- Follow your safer recruitment procedures
- Supervise staff and volunteers appropriately

What's changing

- Roles that are supervised will now be treated the same as unsupervised roles
- More roles will be eligible for enhanced DBS + barred lists checks
- More opportunities to prevent unsuitable adults from working closely with children

What can you do now?



- ☑ Review roles and responsibilities and who needs a higher level of DBS checks
- ☑ Update your safer recruitment procedures
- ☑ If unsure, check-in with your DBS Regional Outreach Adviser