



## **Ball Assistants and Child Employment- Interim Advice and Guidance for Sports Clubs and Local Authority Officers**

There is currently an ongoing discussion and consultation across relevant stakeholders and the Department of Education to determine appropriate and proportionate guidance and legislation for youth employment in sport including the role of Ball Assistants. The following is interim guidance for Local Authorities and Clubs prior revised formal guidance following the Government consultation.

### Interim guidance

- Where the Club currently has a licence in place for ball assistants this arrangement will continue and be supported by the Local Authority or Borough together with any stipulated relevant conditions of compliance.
- For new applications, Clubs should liaise with their respective Local Authority or Borough to determine whether a licence is required. It is the Local Authority and Borough's decision as to whether a licence is required or should be issued, and the criteria required to conform to the licence. For further guidance Local Authorities should liaise with Michelle Clement-Evans at the NNCEE. Where a Local Authority or Borough determine that a licence is not required all correspondence should be retained.
- To clarify, those ball assistants who have left compulsory school (official leaving date is the last Friday in June the year that they turn 16) in either year 12 or at college are to be used for fixtures that finish after 7pm and take place on a Sunday. All other weekday and Saturday fixtures that finish before 7pm can use ball assistants aged 14 years and above, or 13

years if their local byelaws permits, to fulfil the responsibility. Please note young people aged 13/14 years can only work for 5 hours on a Saturday 15/16-year-old 8 hours and the same hours during the week during school holidays.

- Clubs must ensure that there are appropriate procedures and arrangements for young people to safely travel to and from the club on match days.
- Local Authorities and Boroughs should ensure that Clubs have risk assessments in place for all children employed and undertaking the role of ball assistant on match days, including insurance, appropriate protective clothing together with a risk-based approach to deployments.