

## **Names On Shirts**

The FA appreciates that some players/clubs wish to emulate their football idols by having their own player's names on the backs of the team shirts. It is important that you recognise that the placing of names on the back of Under-18 players shirts makes a player instantly identifiable.

As such this allows anyone to be able to identify an individual within that team. This therefore provides a potential opportunity for anyone who is intent on 'grooming' a child or young person to identify a player and make contact easier. They may use this knowledge of a player's name to begin to get to strike up conversation and begin to 'groom' a youngster previously unknown to them.

It should be noted that in circumstances where clubs are well run and supported by parents/carers it is unlikely that having the name on shirts will make a great difference to the safety of their youngster, however those who do seek to groom children are very clever and the more information that they can collect about an individual the easier it is for them to establish a rapport and begin their process.

If a club decides that this is something that they wish to do, then The FA's guidance and advice is that the club should inform the parents/carers and players, of the potential risks involved. Having made them aware of these risks, each parent/carer and player can make an informed decision as to whether they are happy or not for the club to proceed with displaying names on shirts. The FA recommends that written consent is obtained by the club from every player and their parent or carer to ensure that they have had the opportunity to make an informed decision.

Please note there are no rules which say that names may not be out on the back of Under-18's shirts, but we recommend that individuals make their decisions having consulted with both players and parents/carers.