

# **Networking Day – Child and Youth Protection**

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On 23 January 2026, the Swiss Football League (SFL) organised a Networking Day at the Maison du Sport dedicated to the protection of children and young people. Held in collaboration with the Swiss Football Association (SFA), the event combined professional exchanges, targeted training modules and practice-oriented discussions.

The event also marked the launch of the collaboration with Child Protection Switzerland, with the aim of developing child and youth protection in Swiss professional football in a structured manner.

## **A shared understanding**

As part of the training programme, the essential foundations of child and youth protection were addressed. The objective was to convey a shared understanding to serve as a reference for all SFL clubs—based on the right of children and young people to protection, support and participation, as well as on a clear stance rejecting any form of violence and boundary violations.

Building on this, it was shown how standards can be implemented step by step, taking into account the different club structures.

## **Practical integration and clarification of roles**

Group work enabled discussion of concrete practical examples, challenges encountered in day-to-day club operations, and positive approaches already in place. The aim was to encourage the exchange of experience and to realistically assess the feasibility of the planned measures.

## **Awareness-raising and prevention at the core**

In addition, an awareness campaign was presented, with rollout planned for late April and early May 2026. It will be implemented both online and in SFL club stadiums and will target children, young people, parents, carers and the wider club environment. The campaign is part of a development process and combines visible awareness-raising with the gradual introduction of measures.

## **Strengthening collaboration with clubs**

To ensure follow-up on the topic, a joint working group bringing together representatives of the clubs will be established. It will support the implementation of quality standards, encourage the exchange of experience and contribute to the development of practice-oriented solutions.

## **Conclusion: child and youth protection as an ongoing process**

The 2026 Networking Day highlighted that protecting children and young people in football is a shared, long-term process. Collaboration between the league, the federation, the clubs and specialist organisations forms its foundation.