

# Sportspark

## Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

### Child Protection Policy Good Practice Guidelines

Sportspark who are employing people to work in a sporting capacity agrees to:-

- Accept the moral and legal responsibility to provide a duty of care for young people, and implement procedures to safeguard their well-being and protect them from abuse.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of young people and disabled adults.
- Recruit, train and supervise its employees and volunteers to adopt best practise to safeguard and protect young people from abuse, and themselves against false allegations.
- Require staff to adopt and abide by the Sportspark/National Governing Bodies Code of Ethics and Conduct and the Child Protection Policy and Procedures.
- Respond to any allegations appropriately and implement the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures.

The guidance given in the procedures is based on the following principles:

- The welfare of all young people, (the Children Act 1989 defines a young person as under 18 years of age) and disabled adults is the primary concern.
- All young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protect from abuse.
- It is the responsibility of the child protection experts to determine whether or not to abuse has taken place but it is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns.
- All incidents of suspicious poor practice and allegations should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Confidentiality should be upheld in line with the Data Protection Act 1918 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

All personnel in sport should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations. The following are common sense examples of how to create a positive culture and climate within sport.

All employers and employees (paid or voluntary) will ensure good practise by:

- Always working in an open environment e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging an open environment. (E.g. no secrets).
- Treating all young people/disabled adults equally, and with respect and dignity.
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first, before winning or achieving goals.
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with performers (e.g. it is not appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child or to share a room with them).
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust that empowers children to share in the decision-making process.
- Making sport fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play.
- Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it should be provided openly and according to guidelines provided by the NGB. Care is needed as if it is difficult to maintain hand positions when the child is constantly moving. Young people should always be consulted and their agreement gained. Some parents are becoming increasingly sensitive about manual support and their views should always be carefully considered.

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- Keeping up to date with the technical skills, qualifications and insurance in sport.
- Involving parents/carers wherever possible (e.g. for the responsibility of their children in the changing rooms). If groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms, always ensure parents/teachers/coaches/officials work in pairs.
- Being an excellent role model – this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people.
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of young people and disabled adults – avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing against their will.
- Securing parental consent in writing to acting in loco parentis, if the need arises to give permission for the administration of emergency first aid /or the other medical treatment.
- Awareness of any medicines being taken by participants, or existing injuries.
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.

### **Practice To Be Avoided:**

The following should be avoided except in emergencies. If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable they should only occur with the full knowledge and consent of the Duty Manager or the child's parents. For example, a child sustains an injury and needs to go to hospital, or a parent fails to pick a child up at the end of the session:

- Avoid spending excessive amounts for time alone with children away from others.
- Avoid taking children to your home where they will be alone with you.

### **Practice Never To Be Sanctioned:**

**The following should never be sanctioned. You should never:**

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Share a room with a child.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control.
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Do things of a personal nature for children or disabled adults that they can do for themselves. (See section 3.2 of the Sportspark Child Protection Policy for more guidelines).
- Invite or allow children to stay with you at your home unsupervised.

### **Poor Practice:**

Poor practice includes any behaviour that contravenes the Sportspark Code of Ethics and Conduct, which is constituted around the following:

- Rights- for example of the player, the parent, the coach, the official etc.
- Responsibilities- for example responsibility for the welfare of the players, the sport, the profession of coaching their own development.
- Respect- for example of other players, officials and their decisions, coaches, the rules.

The Four Definitions Of Types Of Abuse:

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Neglect- could include a teacher or coach not ensuring children were safe, exposing them to undue cold, heat or to unnecessary risk of injury.

Physical Abuse – may be when the nature and intensity of training and competition exceeds the capacity of the child’s immature and growing body; where the drugs are used to enhance performance or delay puberty.

Sexual Abuse – Coaching techniques that involve physical contact with children could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. The power of a coach over young performers, if misused, may also lead to abusive situations developing.

EMOTIONAL Abuse – may occur if children are subjected to constant criticism, name- calling, sarcasm, bullying, racism or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations consistently.

All staff have the responsibility to act if disclosure, suspicions or allegations have been brought to their attention. False allegations of abuse do occur. However, they are rare, and if a young person says or indicates that he/she is being abused, or information is obtained which gives concern that a young person is being abused, you should react immediately. An incident report must be completed immediately (obtainable from the Assistant Director of PE and Sport). This form should be handed back to the Assistant Director as soon as possible.

Please sign and date below to show that you have read and understood the above information and that you have also read and understood the Sportspark Child Protection Policy:

Signed:.....date:.....