

WHITNASH SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Aim of the Policy:

The aim of the Whitnash Sports & Social Club (hereinafter referred to as the WSSC) is to safeguard all junior/vulnerable members involved in the Club's activities from harm, and to create an environment in which both the young player (child) and parent, or vulnerable adult can feel assured that the Club is a safe, wholesome and developmental atmosphere for all participants. As a Club we pledge to provide relevant support and advice to every player, helper, official and officer of the Club when required, in order to protect young players and vulnerable adults from neglect, exploitation and abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse against young players and vulnerable adults will be acted upon.

Key Principles:

- 1.1 All people under the age of 18 years are regarded as children, and vulnerable adults are also included for the purposes of this policy.
- 1.2 All children/vulnerable adults, whatever their culture, ability, gender, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- 1.3 All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly by the Chairperson or Secretary of the WSSC, who will also refer the matter directly to the Social Services Department of Warwickshire County Council.
- 1.4 There will be at least four members of the Management Committee of the WSSC who will be subject to a routine police (CRB) check including the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Definitions of Abuse:

Physical Abuse – Occasions when adults or other children deliberately inflict injuries on a child/vulnerable adult, or knowingly do not prevent such injuries. This might occur when the nature and intensity of training or competition exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body. This also includes giving children alcohol or inappropriate drugs.

Emotional Abuse – When adults or other children fail to show due care and attention or threaten, use sarcasm, taunt or shout at a child causing them to lose self-confidence, self-esteem and become nervous or withdrawn. This may also occur when the child is placed under unrealistic pressure to constantly perform to high expectations.

Neglect – Where adults fail to provide help and care to the child including leaving a child without proper supervision, or placing the child at undue risk of injury.

Sexual Abuse – Occurs when adults use children to fulfil their own sexual needs.

Code of Practice for People Working with Young Children:

To ensure that all forms of abuse are prevented and to help protect people who work with young players (children)/vulnerable adults, the following guidelines should be followed at all times:

2.1 Always be publicly open when working with children/vulnerable adults, and wherever possible avoid situations where you and an individual child/vulnerable adult are alone.

2.2 Everyone involved needs to be aware of the sensitive issue surrounding physical contact with children. When training young people/vulnerable adults, if physical contact is necessary (strictly for the purpose of coaching and instruction), it will be done openly.

2.5 The adult should never overly criticise young players or use language or actions which might cause children to lose self-esteem or confidence.

2.6 You must never take children to your home or on a car journey before permission has been given personally on every occasion by the child's parent or guardian.

2.7 A promise that confidentiality will be maintained should never be given, as this cannot be guaranteed.

Action to be taken by the Chairperson or Secretary of the WSSC:

It is important that when a child gives information which may lead to a Child Protection Investigation, the Chairperson or Secretary of the WSSC undertakes the following procedure, preferably with the child's parent or guardian in attendance:

3.1 Listen to the child, rather than directly question him or her.

3.2 Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.

3.3 Make it clear to the child that you may not be able to maintain confidentiality.

3.4 Make a note of what was said, taking care to record time, date, setting and who was present.

4.1 Any person other than the child in question, with a suspicion or allegation of child abuse, shall report the matter to the Chairperson or Secretary of the WSSC, who in turn shall refer these concerns to the Social Services Department of Warwickshire County Council.

4.2 The person reporting the suspicions or making the allegations must be prepared to speak to Social Services in order to clarify their concerns.

4.3 On no occasion shall another member of the WSSC approach any person suspected of abusing a child.

4.4 If the person against whom any allegations are made is a friend of, or relative of the Chairperson or Secretary of the WSSC, another Officer of the Club nominated by the Chairperson or Secretary shall undertake the duties in executing this Child Protection Policy.

4.5 Any child, parent or person may contact Social Services directly with information that may lead to a Child Protection Investigation, without referring the matter to the Chairperson or Secretary of the WSSC.

4.6 No one should hesitate to contact Social Services because they are unsure. It is always the responsibility of Social Services to decide whether to investigate further on the basis of information given.

4.7 It is the responsibility of the Chairperson and/or Secretary of the WSSC to maintain strict confidentiality.

A Child Protection Procedural Flow Chart is attached to this Policy for guidance.

Signed:
Graham Cluff – Chairman

Signed:
Jeremy Ley – Secretary

Adopted: October 2013

Child Protection Procedures

What to do flow chart

