



CHIPSTEAD FOOTBALL CLUB

Formed 1936



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY





CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

Chipstead Football Club is committed to creating and preserving the safest possible environment for children to play football.

It is the duty of all Club Committee, Team Managers, Coaches and any other individuals directly or indirectly involved with the Club to be aware of and help prevent the abuse which children can suffer in whatever form - neglect, physical, sexual and emotional.

Chipstead Football Club accept that children's welfare is paramount and all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender or religious belief have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

PROCEDURES

SOME DOS AND DON'TS

YOU SHOULD ALWAYS

- Treat all players and children with respect and dignity befitting of their age, watch your language, tone of voice and where you put your body

YOU SHOULD NEVER

- Engage in rough, physical, or sexually provocative games including horseplay
- Allow or engage in inappropriate or intrusive touching of any kind
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child even in fun
- Let allegations a child makes go unchallenged or unrecorded, always act
- Invade the privacy of children when they are changing, showering, or going to the toilet
- Do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves e.g. help with changing
- Spend excessive amounts of time away from others
- Take children alone in car journeys, however short
- Take children to your home

FORMS OF ABUSE AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR

FORMS OF ABUSE - SEXUAL

Boys and girls can be sexually abused. Abuse can include:

- Full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, fondling
- Showing children pornographic books or videos or taking pornographic photographs or videos

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Pain, itching, bruising, or bleeding to genital area
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking
- Unexplained sources of money
- Inappropriate sexual drawings, language, or behaviour
- Aggressive, withdrawn in fear of one person

FORMS OF ABUSE - PHYSICAL

Physical Physical injuries to children by hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting or burning. In football situations, as with all sports, physical abuse may occur when the nature of the training exceeds the capacity of the child's body.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Unexplained or untreated injuries
- Injuries on unlikely or unusual parts of the body
- Cigarette burns, bites or belt marks, scalds
- Fear of parents being contacted, going home, or receiving medical advice
- Flinching when touched Refusal to discuss injury
- Covering arms or legs

FORMS OF ABUSE - NEGLECT

- Where adults fail to meet a child's basic needs e.g. food, warmth and clothing
- Constantly leaving children alone and unsupervised
- Failure or refusal to give children love, affection or attention

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Poor personal hygiene
- Constantly hungry
- Inappropriate clothing or dress
- Constantly tired
- Lonely, no friends
- Underweight
- No parental support or interest
- Dishevelled appearance

FORMS OF ABUSE - EMOTIONAL

- Persistent lack of love or attention
- Children frequently being shouted at or taunted
- Over protection leading to poor social skills
- Emotional abuse in football may include situations where parents or coaches subject children to constant criticism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Over reaction to mistakes
- Sudden speech disorders
- Extremes of emotion
- Self-mutilation

There may not be any signs, but you may just feel that something is wrong. If you are worried, it is not your responsibility to decide if it is abuse, but IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT ON YOUR CONCERNS AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE

- Understand that this may be the only time the child has built up the courage to tell someone what has happened
- Stop what you are doing and respect the child's privacy
- Stay calm and re-assuring
- Listen to what they tell you, tell them that whatever the circumstances they are not to blame
- Do not react in a way that might add to the child's distress e.g. anger or shock
- Explain that you cannot promise to keep what the child tells you a secret, you may have to tell someone else
- Do not question the child in depth, do not ask leading questions ie. Questions that need only a 'yes' or 'no' answer
- Only ask questions to establish what was done and who did it
- Tell the child that you are pleased they decided to tell someone and that they are absolutely right to do so
- Let the child know that you understand how difficult it is to talk about such experiences
- Inform the Team Manager (unless implicated)
- Inform the Club Child Welfare Officer without delay (Catherine O'Connell - 07884 496996)
- Do not contact parents until you have received advice
- Make an accurate record of the time and date and what was said

IF UNSURE WHAT TO DO, PHONE THE FA/NSPCC HELPLINE ON 0808 800 5000