



FIRST TOUCH FOOTBALL COACHING

(Hereinafter referred to as "The Club")

APPENDIX E

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT AND PROCEDURES

Policy Statement

First Touch is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children. It recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. Coaches will endeavour to work together to encourage the development of an ethos which embraces differences and diversity and respects the rights of children. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

The First Touch Child Protection Officer is David Jamieson.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- Pain, itching, bruising or bleeding in genital area.
- Stomach pains.
- Discomfort when walking.
- Unexplained sources of money.
- Inappropriate sexual drawings / language / behaviour.
- Aggressive, withdrawn or fear of one person.
- Unexplained or untreated injuries.
- Injuries or unlikely or unusual parts of the body.
- Cigarette burns, bite 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.
- Poor personal hygiene.
- Constantly hungry.
- Inappropriate clothing or dress.
- Constantly tired.
- Lonely, no friends.
- Underweight.

- No parental support or interest.
- Dishevelled appearance.
- Over reaction to mistakes.
- Sudden speech disorders.
- Extremes of emotions.
- Self mutilation.

There may not be any signs, 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.**

FORMS OF ABUSE:

Sexual

- When children are forced or persuaded into sexual acts or situations e.g. looking at pornography, being harassed by sexual suggestions or comments, being touched or forced to have sex etc

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 and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's body.

Neglect

- Where adults fail to meet a child's basic physical needs. e.g. food, warmth and clothing.
- Constantly leave children alone and unsupervised.
- Failure to give children love, affection or attention. Neglect in a football situation might occur if a coach fails to ensure children are safe or exposes them to extreme weather conditions or extremes of injury.

Emotional

- Persistent lack of love or affection
- 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.

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE:

- Understand that this may be the only time the child has built up courage to tell someone what has happened.
- Stop what you are doing and respect the child's privacy.
- Stay calm and reassuring.
- Listen to what they tell you, tell them whatever the circumstances they are not to blame.
- Do not react in a way, which may 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, i.e. questions that need a “yes” or a “no” answer.
 - Only ask questions to establish exactly what was done and who did it.
 - Tell the child 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.
 - Do not contact parents until you have received advice.
 - Make an accurate note of the time and date and exactly what was said.
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- If you are aware or are suspicious of a child who may be the subject of abuse, you should, in the first instance, discuss the matter with your Child Protection Officer who will then deal with the matter appropriately.