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Addingham Cricket Club

Guidance for Coaches and Volunteers Working With Children

Coaches play a vital part in the safeguarding the children at a club. Good coaching is about providing a fun and safe environment in which people particularly children can enjoy the experience of cricket. Coaches who work with children are undertaking “Regulated Activity”.

For any person with “Regulated Activity” the club has a duty to check they are not barred from working with children- hence the DBS checks.

The following guidance is for all involved with cricket regardless of their coaching qualifications

Unfortunately child abuse and harassment can take place in many situations. As a cricket coach you have regular contact with children and you should adopt the highest standards of practice and be responsible for identifying those in need of protection. As a coach you will need what to do should a child decide to talk to you any abuse they feel is going on in any aspect of their life. You have a duty of care to follow anything through with the correct procedures. The following guidelines should help you to know what to do if you are worried about a child.

**Good practice means:**

* Welcoming all children and parents/carers into our club and having the systems in place to ensure this is done by:
* Ensuring cricket is welcoming, fun and enjoyable and that fair play is promoted
* Planning sessions around the needs and abilities of all the children
* Being friendly professionals
* Treating all children equally with respect and dignity
* Being an excellent role model
* Always putting the welfare of the children first
* Avoiding being alone with a child and encouraging open communication
* Being I line with Home Office guidelines which states if you are in a position of trust and authority, you must not have sexual relationships with 16-17 yr olds in your care
* Having behavioural boundaries for children so they know what is expected, and zero tolerance to acts of aggression or bullying.
* Encouraging children to recognise their skills, knowledge and love of their game rather than whether they have won or lost
* Give positive constructive feedback.
* Ensuring that where physical contact is required for the purpose of cricket coaching and a child’s welfare and is only done after the child has been consulted and their agreement gained(see section below on physical contact)
* Keeping up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurance
* Ensuring that when mixed sex teams are taken away, the children are always accompanied by a male and female coach
* Any medical conditions are noted along with any action to be taken should the need arise. Information to be kept confidentially
* A written record of any accident that has taken place whilst a child has been in our care, along with details of any treatment required

**Poor Practice means you must NEVER**

* Spend excessive amounts of time alone with a child away from others
* Take or drop off a child at an event leaving you at any time alone with that child.
* Take children to your home where they will be alone with you
* Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative gams
* Allow any form of inappropriate touching or physical abuse
* Take part in, or tolerate behaviour that frightens, demoralises or embarrass a cricketer or affects their self esteem
* Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
* Make sexually suggestive comments to a child even in fun.
* Make a child cry as a form of control
* Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or ignored
* Do things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves
* Shower with a child
* Have inappropriate contact with children e.g. text or social media. ECB guidance is that communication of this nature should be via parents.

**Any of these could not only make the environment less safe for children BUT equally leave you open to allegations**

**Practical coaching guidance on physical contact**

This section is guidance is about safeguarding children as they play cricket but also helps to protect you against any unnecessary or malicious allegations.

* Always conduct coaching sessions with at least one other adult
* It is understood that physical contact may be necessary to instruct, encourage, protect or comfort.
* HOWEVER please remember- never touch a child inappropriately. As a responsible adult you should only use physical contact if its aim is to:
* Develop sports skills or techniques
* Treat an injury
* Prevent an injury or accident occurring
* Meet the requirements of the sport
* You should still seek to explain the reason for the contact. Unless the situation is an emergency, the adult should ask the child for permission..
* If a child gets injured and is required to be carried to a place of treatment, always seek support from another adult before moving the child. Any first aid administrated should be in the presence of another adult or in open view of others.
* If the child seems uncomfortable with the physical contact in any way- sop immediately
* If a child you are working with is visually impaired, you should tell them who you are and ask their permission before you come into physical contact with them
* Never attempt to adjust the grip of a child when in the normal batting stance position
* Never find yourself in a position where you are the only adult present around children e g changing rooms, showers in a car etc
* Where physical contact is for motivational or celebratory purposes, agree with the children, coaches that praise in the way of a “high five” will be used.
* Never help child to dress- even to put pads on, helmets etc unless they request your help and genuinely need this.
* Never take on one-to-one coaching with a child unless another adult is present.
* If you need to communicate with a child for the purpose of coaching or passing on cricket information, use a parents mobile phone number. If you have agreed in advance with the parents (written agreement) to use to a child’s own mobile number, under no circumstances make that number available to anyone else.

If any of the following incidents take place or are observed, you MUST report them to the Club Welfare Officer (Penny Etchells 07765 201961) and make a written note of the event using the ECB incident reporting form and inform parents where appropriate if:

You accidently hurt a child

* A child seems distressed in any manner
* A child acts in a sexually inappropriate manner
* A child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done or said

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