

Dealing with concerns

Concerns relating to poor practice in a sports club should be reported to the Welfare Officer in writing and a copy sent to the secretary of the club. Speak to your club for the relevant contacts.

Concerns relating to possible abuse within a club environment should immediately be reported to the Club Welfare Officer, the NGB lead Welfare Officer and/or directly to your Local Safeguarding Children Board where appropriate. Serious concerns of a criminal nature should immediately be reported to the police. See useful contacts.

If you are unsure what action to take seek some advice. Social care or the NSPCC are available to discuss your concerns.

Points of good practice when dealing with Safeguarding issues:

- Stay calm and don't make assumptions
- Read the Club's Safeguarding Policy
- Record your concerns - write down what you have seen or heard
- Seek advice from those best to deal with
- REFER CONCERNS – within your organisation you should have a Welfare Officer or Manager to whom you can refer concerns
- Report serious concerns of a criminal nature to the police
- Be honest with a child who confides in you
- Don't promise to keep secrets
- Don't speculate your concerns to others
- NEVER ignore concerns
- Follow up concerns with relevant professionals

Useful Contacts:

NSPCC
Child Protection Helpline
for adults with concerns
www.nspcc.org.uk
0808 800 5000

NSPCC registered charity
numbers 216401 and SC037717

Childline
Support for children and
young people
www.childline.org.uk
0800 1111

ChildLine is a service provided by the NSPCC

Police (West Midlands)
0845 113 5000

Police (Warwickshire)
01926 415000

Coventry Children's Social Care
024 7678 8555 (office hours)
024 7683 2222 (out of hours)

Warwickshire Children's Team
01926 410410 (office hours)
01926 886922 (out of hours)

**Solihull Education
& Children's Services**
0121 788 4333 (office hours)
0121 605 6060 (out of hours)

Child Protection in Sport Unit
www.thecpsu.org.uk
0116 234 7278



NSPCC
CHILD PROTECTION
HELPLINE
0808 800 5000



Coventry Solihull & Warwickshire **SPORT**

Keeping Sport Safe!

A guide for parents
and carers



www.cswsport.org.uk

Keeping Sport Safe!

Joining a sports club is a great way for young people to learn new skills, meet and make friends, improve their health and fitness and potentially play sport at a high level. The Government's Every Child Matters agenda gives priority and focus to the following;

Be healthy, Stay safe, Enjoy and achieve, Make a positive contribution, Achieve economic well-being. Through **SPORT** we aim to reflect these priorities.

Everyone has responsibility to ensure sports activities are both fun and safe for young people. As a parent one way you can contribute to this is to choose a club or activity where safeguarding all young participants is a priority.

But how do you know you are choosing the right club?

Here are some questions you should ask your chosen club.

- **Does the club have Clubmark or other formal accreditation?** Clubmark is a quality standard for sports clubs and may have a different name depending on the sports own branding. If a club has achieved their accreditation many of the following points will have been covered in the process. Asking for Clubmark should always be your first question. For more information on Clubmark, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Safeguarding go to: www.cswsport.org.uk
- **Does the club have qualified coaches and leaders?** You can ask to see qualifications and check with the National Governing Body (NGB) if you are unsure. Most NGBs will have websites or use www.cswsport.org.uk

- **Are sessions run with the appropriate ratio of adult to participants?**
All sessions should have at least 2 adults taking the session and more if numbers are high or for higher risk activities. Higher adult to child ratios should be expected for younger participants.
- **Have all coaches and leaders been vetted, including a CRB check?** Everyone in contact with children and young people should have been properly recruited; CRB checked and have attended safeguarding training.
- **Is there a first aider at all sessions with access to a telephone and first aid box and is the equipment appropriate in terms of size and condition?**
- **Is the club affiliated to their NGB for insurance?**
- **Do coaches and leaders hold relevant insurance cover?**
- **Does the club have a Code of Conduct for parents/carers, coaches, volunteers and participants?**
- **Does the club make reasonable adjustments for disabled participants?**
- **Who is the Club's Welfare Officer?**
- **Does the club have a Safeguarding policy, including how to report any concerns.**

Photography & videoing

Your permission for your child to be photographed or videoed must always be sought before a club/coach can do so. If you have any concerns they should be reported to the Welfare Officer.

Fixtures Away

The club has a responsibility to take care of your child at all sessions and when travelling away for fixtures.

The team manager or welfare officer should take the lead to ensure the safety of all participants. You should complete a consent form with all details of your child including any medical needs.

Safeguarding young people

It is important that parents and carers ensure that young people taking part in sport feel safe, happy, confident and have fun. Children and young people should know who to contact in the club should they have any concerns

Children and young people should never experience any of the following through sport by being:

- Shouted at or pushed too hard in a training session
- Bullied by other participants or adults
- Made to feel inferior or insignificant
- Offered drugs
- Hurt
- Made to feel uncomfortable in any way
- Touched inappropriately
- Asked to keep secrets
- Called names and/or made to cry
- Exposed to inappropriate images or photographs.

