

# Tadworth Football Club

(hereinafter collectively referred to as 'The Club')

## **Child Protection Policy**

Every child or young person who plays or participates in sport should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in the provision of sporting activities by the Club.

The Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

The procedures detailed within this policy document apply to all persons involved in the operations of The Club whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. For example, coaches, referees, club officials, volunteers, medical staff, etc.

The Club will consider, having taken advice, whether anyone who has a previous criminal conviction or caution for offences related to the abuse of children or young people, violence or any sexual offences should be excluded from working with children and young people. This position is re-enforced by UK legislation and guidance.

All persons involved with the operations of The Club who are in regular contact with Junior Members will be required by The Club to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check. The responsibility for ensuring that such checks are performed will rest with The Club Committee.

## **What Is Child Abuse?**

Child abuse is a term to describe ways in which children or young people are harmed, usually by adults and increasingly by peers. Often, these are people they know and trust. It refers to the damage done to a child's or young person's physical, mental or emotional health. Children or young people can be abused within or outside the family, at school and within sporting and recreational environments. Abusive situations arise when adults or peers misuse their power over children or young people.

## **There are five main forms of abuse:**

**Physical Abuse** includes situations where adults:

- Physically hurt or injure children or young people (eg. by hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting or burning).
- Use excessive and inappropriate training methods.

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**Neglect** includes situations in which:

- A child's or young person's basic physical needs (eg food, warm clothing) are not met.
- Children or young people are consistently left alone and unsupervised.

**Sexual abuse** includes situations in which:

- adults/peers use children or young people to meet their own sexual needs.

**Emotional abuse** includes situations in which:

- There is a persistent lack of attention or respect shown to a child or young person.
- Children or young people are overprotected preventing them from socialising.
- Children or young people are frequently shouted at, constantly criticised, taunted or bullied to perform to standards they are clearly not able to reach.

**Bullying** can take many forms, be it of a physical, verbal or emotional nature, and will usually include:

- Deliberate hostility and aggression towards a victim.
- A victim who is less powerful than the bully or bullies.
- An outcome which is always painful and distressing for the victim.

## **Recognition of Abuse**

Even for those experienced in working with child abuse, it is not always easy to recognise a situation where abuse may be occurring or has already taken place. Any concern about the welfare of any child or young person should be reported to a member of The Club Committee, the police, social services or any other relevant agency.

## **Procedures for Promoting Good Practice**

All children and young people have the right to be safe and treated with dignity and respect.

The following basic guidelines will help safeguard this:

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## **General Guidelines In The Care Of Children and Young People**

It is possible to reduce situations in which abuse can occur and help to protect staff/volunteers by promoting good practice. The following are more specific examples of care which should be taken when working within a sports context:

- Always be public and open when working with young people. Avoid situations where a teacher/coach and individual child or young person are completely unobserved.
- Always treat players in an open environment; if treatment is required within a closed area, ensure that parents/carers are aware of this.
- Where appropriate, parents/carers should take on the responsibility for their children or young people in the changing rooms. If groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms, always ensure coaches work in pairs.
- Where there are mixed teams away from home, they should always be accompanied by a male and female coach/official.
- When working with children or young players of the opposite sex, coaches must agree with parents/carers when, or if, it is appropriate to enter the changing area. It may be prudent to set a time, for example, 10 minutes before a match/game, when the coach could enter the room accompanied by parents/carers, at least one of which must be of the opposite sex.

Everyone should also be aware that as a general rule it **does not make sense** to:

- Spend excessive amounts of time alone with a child/young person.
- Take children or young people alone on car journeys, however short.
- Take children or young people to your home where they can be alone with you.

If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable, they should only occur with the full knowledge and consent of a member of The Club Committee and/or the Junior Member's parent(s)/guardian(s).