



Coaches' Guidelines For Good Practice

1. Always be publicly open when working with children and vulnerable adults. Avoid situations where you and an individual are completely unobserved.
2. Rugby is a physical game. Situations will occur when in order to teach or coach certain techniques, it is necessary to make contact with the player. If this is the case, tell the player beforehand and ask if they have any objections.
3. If groups are to be supervised in changing rooms, always ensure that adults work in pairs and that gender is appropriate.
4. Where mixed teams play away from home, they should always be accompanied by at least one adult female and one adult male.
5. Volunteers and professionals must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all and treat everyone with equality.
6. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of the player above the development of performance.
7. Coaches should:
 - Avoid overplaying of players (particularly talented players). All players need and deserve equal opportunity to play.
 - Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only one part of that.
 - Ensure that contact skills are taught in a safe, secure manner paying due regard to the physical development of the players.
 - Never allow young players to train or play when injured.
 - Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
8. Coaches & Assistants must hold relevant and current RFU coaching awards and have a current DBS check.
9. Coaches must ensure that the activities which they direct or advocate are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of the players.
10. Coaches should always promote the positive aspects of their sport (eg. fair play) and never condone law violations or use of prohibitive substances.
11. Coaches must consistently display high standards of personal behaviour and appearance.
12. Coaches should never overtly criticise players or use language or actions which may cause the player to lose self-esteem or confidence.

HEATHFIELD & WALDRON RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



EVERYONE SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT, AS A GENERAL RULE, IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE FOR A COACH OR ASSISTANT TO:

Spend amounts of time alone with children or vulnerable adults away from others.

Take children or vulnerable adults alone on car journeys, however short the journey.

Take children or vulnerable adults to your home.

If it should arise that such situations are unavoidable they should only take place with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge of the club/governing body and/or a person with parental responsibility for the player.

If you accidentally hurt a player, or cause distress in any manner, or the player appears to respond in a sexual manner to your actions, or misunderstands, or misinterprets something you have done, report the incident to the Club Safeguarding Officer, supported by a brief written report of the incident as soon as possible.

Junior Chair: Alan Young

Mini Chair: Mark Greenlees

Club Safeguarding Officer: Jenny Churchyard

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