

SWAFFHAM RUGBY CLUB

GUIDENCE FOR COACHING/VOLUNTEER STAFF CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OR SUSPICION OF CHILD ABUSE

This is an emotive and highly charged subject, this document states how Swaffham Rugby club will deal with these matters, if they should arise.

This is as much for the protection of our coaching /volunteer staff as for looking after the welfare of our players.

There are 4 main types of abuse, they are:

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

In a coaching situation, it may occur when coaches

- Repeated negative comments
- Repeatedly ignoring a young players efforts to improve.
- Repeatedly demanding performance levels that the players cannot attain.
- Over emphasise the winning ethic

NEGLECT

In a coaching situation, neglect may occur when

- Young players left alone without supervision.
- Young players exposed to unnecessary heat or cold without fluids or protection
- Young player exposed to an unacceptable risk of injury.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

In a coaching situation, physical abuse may occur

- Coaches expose players to exercise/training which disregards the players immature and growing body.
- The player is exposed to injury through over-training, overplaying or fatigue.
- Coaches expose players to alcohol or give them the opportunity to consume alcohol below the legal age.
- Coaches expose players to performance enhancing drugs and recommend their use.

SEXUAL ABUSE

We are all aware of what this topic involves without publishing it in a public club document. However, the exposure to pornographic material is also covered in this section.

The above section is designed to remind and re-enforce to all concerned of what the issues are.

There may be occasions where circumstances of an allegation are about poor practice rather than abuse but those responsible should always consult with the professional RFU/RFUW staff and seek advice from the Social services or NSPCC where there is any doubt.

It is important that any concerns for the welfare of the child arising from abuse or harassment by a member of staff or volunteer should be reported immediately.

The RFU and RFUW want to assure all staff, coaches and volunteers that they will fully support and protect anyone who, in good faith, reports his or her concerns that a colleague is or may be abusing a child.

All suspicions or allegations should be made to the club "Person in Charge" who will follow the procedures laid down in the RFU Child Protection Policy Statement.

If the allegation is against the "Person in Charge" then the complaint should be directed to the Youth Chairman.

If the allegation is deemed to be "Poor Practice" then it will be dealt with as an internal issue.

If the allegation is deemed as "unlawful" then the Person in Charge will contact the RFU/RFUW professional staff who will advise on referral to the Social Services Department who may involve the Police.

All these procedures are documented and the Person In Charge will hold a up to date copy of the RFU Policy, which can be consulted by all members of the coaching staff and club volunteers.