

YOU SHOULD ALWAYS:

- ✓ Treat all players and children with respect and dignity befitting of their age, watch your language, tone of voice and where you put your body.

YOU SHOULD NEVER:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games including horseplay
- Allow or engage in inappropriate or intrusive touching of any kind
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child even in fun
- Let allegations a child make go unchallenged or unrecorded, always act
- Invade the privacy of children when they are changing, showering or going to the toilet

YOU SHOULD AVOID:

- Doing things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves. E.g. help with changing
- Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
- Taking children alone on car journeys, however short
- Taking children to your home

Where these situations are unavoidable, first seek parental consent where possible. If unable to speak to the parents, **always** inform them of the circumstances as soon as practicable.

**Avon Youth League
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
STATEMENT**

The Avon Youth League is committed to creating and preserving the safest possible environment for children to play football.

It is the duty of all League Management, Referees, Club Officials, Team Managers and any other individuals directly or indirectly involved with member clubs or teams playing in the League to be aware of and help prevent the abuse which children can suffer, neglect, physical, sexual and emotional.

The Avon Youth League accept children's welfare is paramount and all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender or religious belief, have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

DECLARATION:

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the details and aims set out in this document,

Signature:

NAME: _____
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Position / Club: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____



Guidelines for Safeguarding Children's Welfare

issued by the League's Child Protection Officer:

Anita Jennison
0117 985 0605
anitajennison@aol.com

Other Useful Contacts:

Childline: 0800 1111
Barnardos: 0208 550 8822
FA / NSPCC Child Protection Helpline:
0808 800 5000
Text phone / hearing impaired users:
0800 056 0566

*Order a Child-Safe training pack / video protecting Young People in Sport & Organised Groups
Contact the league Child-Protection Officer*

FORMS OF ABUSE

Sexual

Boys and girls can be sexually abused. Abuse can include:

- Full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, fondling
- Showing children pornographic books or videos or taking pornographic photographs or videos

Physical

- ❖ Physical injuries to children by hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting or burning. In football situations, as with all sports, physical abuse may occur when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's body.

Neglect

- ❑ Where adults fail to meet a child's basic physical needs. E.g. food, warmth and clothing.
- ❑ Constantly leaving children alone and unsupervised
- ❑ Fail or refuse to give children love, affection or attention

Emotional

- Persistent lack of love or affection
- Children frequently being shouted at or being taunted
- Over protection leading to poor social skills

Emotional abuse in football may include situations where parents or coaches subject children to constant criticism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Pain, itching, bruising or bleeding to genital area
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking
- Unexplained sources of money
- Inappropriate sexual drawings / language / behaviour
- Aggressive, withdrawn or fear of one person
- ❖ Unexplained or untreated injuries
- ❖ Injuries on unlikely or unusual parts of the body
- ❖ Cigarette burns, bites or belt marks, scalds
- ❖ Fear of parents being contacted, going home or receiving medical advice
- ❖ Flinching when touched
- ❖ Refusal to discuss injury
- ❖ Covering arms or legs
- ❑ Poor personal hygiene
- ❑ Constantly hungry
- ❑ Inappropriate clothing or dress
- ❑ Constantly tired
- ❑ Lonely, no friends
- ❑ Under weight
- ❑ No parental support or interest
- ❑ Dishevelled appearance
- Over Reaction to mistakes
- Sudden speech disorders
- Extremes of emotions
- Self mutilation

There may not be any signs you may just feel that something is wrong. If you are worried, it is not your responsibility to decide if it is abuse, but **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT ON YOUR CONCERNS AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.**

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE

- ✓ Understand that this may be the only time the child has built up courage to tell someone what has happened
- ✓ Stop what you are doing and respect the child's privacy
- ✓ Stay calm and re-assuring
- ✓ Listen to what they tell you, tell them that whatever the circumstances they are not to blame
- ✓ Do not react in a way that may add to the child's distress e.g. anger or shock
- ✓ Explain that you cannot promise to keep what the child tells you a secret, you may have to tell someone else
- ✓ Do not question the child in depth, do not ask leading questions, i.e. questions that need a "yes" or "no" answer
- ✓ Only ask questions to establish exactly what was done and who did it
- ✓ Tell the child that you are pleased they decided to tell someone and that they are absolutely right to do so
- ✓ Let the child know that you understand how difficult it is to talk about such experiences
- ✓ Inform the Team Manager (unless implicated)
- ✓ **Contact the Avon Youth League Child Protection Officer *without delay***
- ✓ Do not contact parents until you have received advice
- ✓ Make an accurate record of the time and date and exactly what was said