



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Introduction

All individuals involved in sports activities with children and young people have a responsibility to safeguard their welfare. This includes aspects such as sexism, racism & bullying that may occur during the activity (see the definitions section). However, this means more than just the physical safety & welfare of the child whilst at the sporting activity and covers all aspects of abuse.

What is abuse?

Child Abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment (abuse) or lack of care (neglect) that leads to injury or harm. It commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and represents an abuse of power or a breach of trust. Abuse can happen to a child regardless of their age, gender, race or ability. See the Definitions section for more details.

All representatives of Keighley Kobras Junior Badminton Club, especially those involved directly with the children taking part in the coaching sessions & club activities, have a duty to ensure this welfare through observation and action following any allegations of abuse. The purpose of this policy is to highlight what to look out for & what action is to be taken if any abuse is suspected.

It is also the responsibility of all Keighley Kobras Junior Badminton Club representatives to reduce the risk of wrongful accusation and promote good practice. A child may easily misinterpret acts by a representative. Again, this policy will highlight good practice.

What to look for – Signs of abuse

Remember that every child is unique and it is difficult to predict how their behaviour will change as a result of their experience of abuse. The impact of abuse is likely to be affected by their age, the nature and extent of the abuse and the help and support they receive. There are some behaviours that are commonly seen in children who are abused but remember they may only give an indication and not confirmation.

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, bites or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries.
- The child says that she or he is being abused, or another person says they believe (or know) that abuse is occurring.
- The child has an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent or which has not been adequately treated.
- The child's behaviour changes, either over time or quite suddenly, and he or she becomes quiet and withdrawn, or alternately becomes aggressive.
- Refusal to remove clothing for normal activities or keeping covered up in warm weather.
- The child appears not to trust particular adults, a parent or coach with whom she or he would be expected to have, or once had, a close relationship.
- An inability to make close friends.
- A deterioration in physical appearance or rapid weight gain/loss.
- Pains or itching, bruising bleeding in or near genital area.
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or behaviour for the child's age.
- Fear of going home / fear of parents being consulted.
- Fear of an adult or flinching when approached by an adult.
- Unexplained money or property.
- Self harm.



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Appropriate Action

Remember, it is not your responsibility to decide if child abuse has occurred but it is your responsibility to take action, however small your concern.

If you are approached by a child with abuse allegations the matter must be handled with the utmost discretion, with the child's welfare a primary concern.

- Listen carefully to what they tell you.
- Don't ask direct questions – "Who, What Where or When".
- Do encourage them to talk – "Do you want to tell me about this?"
- Be honest with them about what you can and cannot do. Tell them you are not able to keep what they have told you secret and that you will try to find them the help they need.
- Keep calm and even if you find what they are saying difficult or painful keep listening.
- When they have finished make a detailed note of what they have said on an incident form and pass that information onto the club's designated officer. An incident form should be attached to this policy.
- If you have serious concerns about the immediate safety of that child contact the Police or Social Services. Record who you spoke to and tell your club's designated officer what you have done.
- Do not contact or confront the individual who is alleged to be responsible.
- Find someone you trust to talk to about or to support you but remember not to name or identify those involved in the allegations.

If, however, child abuse is suspected from observations (see above) then the following should be carried out.

- Record carefully what you have observed on an incident form and pass this information to an official in your club. An incident form should be attached to this policy.
- Talk to the club's designated officer who will decide what action to take.
- If you have serious concerns about the immediate safety of that child contact the Police or Social Services. Record who you spoke to and tell your club's designated officer what you have done.

Guidelines to good practice

- Avoid situations where there is just one adult and one child present.
- Keep doors open when working in an enclosed environment.
- Arrange to meet children with parents present.
- Encourage parents and other adults to observe coaching sessions and support competitions/matches.
- Avoid compromising situations.
- Avoid inappropriate physical contact.
- When coaching avoid excessive & inappropriate exercise by taking account of the child's age & sex.
- Ensure that all aspects of bullying, sexism & racism are dealt with immediately. These issues are unacceptable and any person who carries out such acts will be prevented from participating further.



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Recruitment & Training

It is the club's responsibility to ensure that children are not placed at risk by ensuring that all new adult coaches / volunteer helpers have been appropriately vetted. The vetting checklist, below, will be used to assist this.

- We will carry out a CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks to confirm the prospective coach / volunteer is not on the PoCA List. See contact details below.
- We will ask for the "Child Protection - Personal Profile Form" to be completed.
- We will interview prospective coaches / volunteers.
- We will note at interview all previous relevant experience of coaches / volunteers.
- We will carry out a probationary period for all new coaches / volunteers of at least three months.

All representatives of the club shall receive a copy of this child protection policy and shall be given additional training as required to ensure that they are up to date with current legislation.

Designated child protection representative / contact information

Name	Mr Nigel Phillips	Telephone	01274786184
		Mobile	07970111608
		Email	n-phillips@blueyonder.co.uk

If Nigel is unavailable you can contact:

Name	Mr Ashley Reed	Mobile	07917 881305
		Email	Ashley.reedwork@tiscali.co.uk

Badminton England (Governing body)	Telephone	01908 268400
	Mobile	07809 495100
	Email	childprotection@badmintonengland.co.uk
	Website	www.badminonengland.co.uk

NSPCC 24 hour child protection line	Telephone	0800 800 5000
	Email	help@nspcc.org.uk

Childline	Telephone	0800 1111
	Website	www.childline.org.uk



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Definitions

Abuse and Neglect

- **Neglect** – where adults fail to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development (e.g. failure to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment). It may also include refusal to give children love, affection and attention. Neglect in sport could include a teacher or coach not ensuring children were safe, exposing them to undue cold, heat or to unnecessary risk of injury.
- **Physical abuse** – where adults physically hurt or injure children by hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, biting, or scalding, suffocating, drowning or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after e.g. factitious illness by proxy or Munchausen's syndrome by proxy. Examples of physical abuse in Sport may be when the nature and intensity of training and competition exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body; where drugs are used to enhance performance or delay puberty.
- **Sexual abuse** – where girls and boys are abused by adults (both male and female) who use children to meet their own sexual needs. This could include full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, anal intercourse and fondling. Showing children pornographic material (books, videos, pictures) or talking to children in a sexually explicit manner is also a form of sexual abuse. In sport, coaching techniques, which involve physical contact with children, could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. The power of the coach over young performers, if misused, may also lead to abusive situations developing.
- **Emotional abuse** – is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development? It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger by being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted which may make the child very nervous and withdrawn. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child. Emotional abuse in Sport may occur if children are subjected to constant criticism, name-calling, and sarcasm, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations consistently.

What is bullying?

Bullying is often defined in terms of three components,

- It must occur over time, rather than being a single aggressive act;
- It involves an imbalance of power, the powerful attack the powerless;
- It can be psychological, verbal, or physical in nature.

The most common experiences of bullying and discrimination reported by young people was at the hands of other young people.

- Being called names, insulted or verbally abused;
- Being deliberately embarrassed and humiliated by other children;
- Being made to feel different or like an outsider;
- Being lied about;
- Being physically assaulted or threatened with violence;
- Being ignored.