

What is abuse?

There are different forms of abuse and all cases must be dealt with in a sensitive and appropriate manner so please don't ignore it.

Remember that abuse may be:

PHYSICAL, BULLYING, NEGLECT, EMOTIONAL, VERBAL OR SEXUAL.

What is my responsibility?

As coaches, volunteers and officials, you are often in a position of trust and influence with children and young people.

This position can mean that you are often well placed to recognise the signs of abuse in your young participants.

This may be during sports activities, at home, or perhaps in the community.

But remember it is not your responsibility to **DECIDE** if a young person is being abused.

Your role is simply to **ACT** on any concerns you may have.

What is good practice?

Treat everyone fairly and with respect

Put the welfare of each young person first, before winning or achieving goals

Make sport fun and promote fair play

Keep up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurance

Attend safeguarding training

Be a role model to those you coach

Give constructive feedback rather than negative criticism

Keep a written record of any injury or incident that occurs

Encourage the views of participants

Focus on improving team performance

When should I take action?

If a young person tells you they are being abused

If you suspect abuse has taken place

If you believe the young person to be at risk

If you have concerns over the poor practice of a fellow coach or volunteer

If any individual gives you concerns about inappropriate behaviour

If you suspect bullying in any form



A guide
for coaches,
volunteers
& officials

Safeguarding & Protecting Children & Vulnerable Adults in Sport



How do I react if a young person confides in me?

- DON'T** panic or appear shocked
- DON'T** probe for information or ask leading questions
- DON'T** speculate or make assumptions
- DON'T** make negative comments or approach the identified individual
- DON'T** make promises to keep secrets
- DON'T** ignore the situation

If you have serious concerns about the immediate safety of a young person contact the Police or Social Services. Record the name of the person you spoke to and Inform your Club Welfare Officer (if you have one) and/or Local Contact.

Always remember...

TO tell the young person that you are not able to keep what they have told you secret and that you will try to find them the help they need

TO use the appropriate 'Child Protection Reporting Form' to make a full record of what has been said

TO inform the relevant CPO immediately (see Local Contact)

TO reassure the young person they are not to blame

TO try to keep questions to a minimum

TO take the young person seriously

TO react calmly



Who can I ring?

**NSPCC (24 hours)
Helpline: 0808 800 5000**

**NSPCC Child Protection in Sport
Tel: 0116 234 7278**

**County Durham Social Care Direct
Tel: 0845 8505010**

Local contact: