

Ditchling Cricket Club – Junior Section

Child Protection Policy and Guidelines

(Adapted from ECB Guidance)

Principles

The following are the principles upon which Ditchling Cricket Club (“the Club”) bases its Child Protection Policy:

- the Club aims to provide the highest standards of coaching and cricket facilities for its Junior Section;
- the Club acknowledges that an environment of care, patience, understanding and encouragement is the most effective way to deal with young cricketers;
- the Club has a firm commitment to the health, safety and welfare of its junior players; and
- the Club is committed to protect all of its junior players from any form of abuse and to ensure that the treatment of those players is in accordance with the principles laid out in the Club’s Equity Statement.

What is Abuse?

Child abuse is the term used to describe ways in which children are harmed, the following being the main forms of abuse:

1. **Physical abuse**

This includes striking, hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting, burning or exerting excessive force on a child.

2. **Sexual abuse**

This occurs when adults seek their own sexual gratification from youngsters.

3. **Neglect**

This arises when an adult fails to meet or supervise the basic needs of a child, for example with regard to food, warmth, hygiene, clothing and medical care.

4. **Emotional abuse**

This can occur where a child is threatened, taunted, shouted at or berated, or where the child’s effort or progress is ignored.

In addition, it is acknowledged that as well as abuse by adults, children can abuse other children, for example by bullying and name-calling.

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Recognising and Reporting of Abuse

All adults with responsibility for junior players under the auspices of the Junior Section (“Responsible Adults”) should endeavour to protect junior players from all forms of abuse and to ensure that the treatment of those players is in accordance with the principles laid out in the Club’s Equity Statement.

It is not the Responsible Adult’s role to determine whether or not abuse has in fact taken place. The Club’s position is that if the Responsible Adult reasonably suspects that abuse has taken place, he or she should alert the Club’s Welfare Officer or in extreme circumstances the appropriate agency(ies) direct to that suspicion so that they can make enquiries and take the necessary action. The reporting of such matters should not be delayed.

In the event that the appropriate agency(ies) are contacted directly, the Responsible Adult should in any event consult with the Club’s Welfare Officer who will take appropriate action.

Support from the Club

Any Responsible Adult who reports suspected abuse in good faith will be supported fully by the Junior Section Manager and the Club’s Committee.

Should it be proven subsequently that abuse has occurred, the Club will deal appropriately with any perpetrator(s) in accordance with the disciplinary process set out in the Junior Section’s Operating Policy.

Child Protection Action

The Club has the following child protection documents in place;

1. Good practice guidelines for coaches and responsible adults (“Coaching Personnel”) – these guidelines are appended to this Policy (**Page 3**)
2. Indicators for the recognition of abuse (also appended to this Policy) (**Page 6**)
3. Details of the local agencies for the reporting of abuse (also appended to this Policy) (**Page 8**);

It is the responsibility of the Junior Section Manager to ensure that all Coaching Personnel are issued with this Policy document and its appendices.

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Appendix 1

Good Practice Guidelines in the Care of Junior Players

(Issued to all coaches and responsible adults "Coaching Personnel")

Coaching Personnel should be sensitive to any concerns about abuse and act on them at an early stage. They should also offer appropriate support to those junior players or other parties who report concerns.

Good Practice in the Care of Children

The following are examples of care that should be taken when dealing with junior players. It is not an exhaustive list but it is indicative of the type of behaviour that should be practised.

- Always be publicly open when working with junior players and avoid situations where a member of Coaching Personnel is working unobserved with junior players;
- do not spend excessive amounts of time alone with a particular junior player away from others;
- wherever possible, parents (or guardians) should take on the responsibility for their children in the changing rooms;
- if groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms, always ensure that Coaching Personnel work in pairs;
- encourage an environment of open communication i.e. no secrets;
- where there are mixed teams, a male and female member of Coaching Personnel should accompany the team wherever practicable;
- if any form of manual support (physical touching) is required, that support should be provided openly and according to guidelines provided by the ECB - care is needed, as it is difficult to maintain hand positions when the child is moving;
- it is advisable if parents'/carers' views are obtained in advance of any manual support;
- if a member of Coaching Personnel should accidentally hurt a junior player, if a junior player seems distressed in any manner or if a junior player appears to be sexually aroused by the actions of a member of Coaching Personnel, that fact should be reported immediately to another member of Coaching Personnel, a brief written note of the incident should be made and a parent/carer of the junior player(s) concerned should be informed;

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- never take a junior player alone on car journeys, however short, except with the express consent of the relevant parent or guardian;
- junior players should never be taken to the home of a member of Coaching Personnel or to other locations where they may be alone with that person;
- never engage in rough, physical or potentially sexually provocative games with junior players, including horseplay;
- never share a room with a junior player;
- never allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching;
- never allow junior players to use inappropriate language unchallenged;
- never make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun;
- never do things of a personal nature for a junior player that they can do for themselves; and
- never allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.

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Listening to Children

The first response to an indication or report that child abuse may be happening is crucial. Adults to whom an indication or report is made play a crucial role in determining whether the abuse can be successfully dealt with.

Often children will be frightened, confused and feeling vulnerable. It is important that the adult to whom the child is disclosing listens carefully to the child, does not seek to judge or comment upon what he or she is hearing but asks a series of open questions to illicit further information. The child should be reassured and supported in a calm manner, they should be told that they have done the right thing by disclosing their concerns.

Do...

- keep calm and reassure the child or whoever discloses;
- listen carefully to any disclosures;
- show that you are listening (and that the disclosure is being taken seriously);
- at an appropriate time indicate that it will probably be necessary to involve someone else, to ensure that the abuse stops;
- take accurate, factual notes (e.g. names, times, dates and places, details of any visible injuries and a description of the allegation) – whilst being aware that your writing notes may have the impact of preventing or slowing the disclosure – you may be able to make notes straight after the disclosure;
- report the incident or allegation to the Club Welfare Officer.

Don't...

- panic;
- make judgements;
- try to move to solutions too quickly;
- promise confidentiality to the child or agree to keep secrets;
- approach the alleged abuser.

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Appendix 2

Recognising Abuse

Typical Indicators

Typical indicators of abuse include the following. This list is not exhaustive and should be used as an aid only.

- Injuries that are inconsistent with normal play or sports injuries, or injuries of an unusual type or in an unusual location on the body;
- inconsistent or unreasonable explanations of injuries by a child or parent;
- inconsistent or inappropriate behaviour, such as sexually suggestive remarks or actions, mood swings, uncharacteristic quietness/aggression, or severe tantrums;
- social isolation;
- over or under-eating, weight gain or loss;
- inappropriate, unkempt or dirty clothing;
- self inflicting injury;
- open distrust of, or discomfort with a parent or coach, etc;
- delayed social development, poor language or speech;
- excessively nervous behaviour, such as rocking or twisting hair; or
- low self-esteem.

Additional indicators, which may also signal sexual abuse, include:

- recurring abdominal pain;
- reluctance to go home;
- recurring headaches; or
- flinching when approached or touched.

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Common Sites for Non-Accidental Injury

The most common sites for non-accidental injury are:

- ears - pinch or slap marks, bruising;
- cheek and side of face - bruising, finger marks;
- eyes - bruising, particularly both eyes;
- mouth - torn frenulum;
- skull - fracture, bruising or bleeding under skull (from shaking);
- shoulders and neck - bruising, grasp marks;
- chest and upper and inner arms - bruising, grasp marks;
- back, buttocks and thighs - linear bruising, outline of belt/buckle, scalds/burns;
- genitals - bruising; and
- knees - grasp marks.

Bruises are likely to be frequent, patterned (e.g. finger and thumb mark) and old and new in the same place. Burns and scalds are likely to have clear outline, splash marks around burn area, unusual position (e.g. back of hand) and indicative shapes (e.g. cigarette burns, bar of electric fire).

Suspicious injuries are bite marks, fingernail marks, large and deep scratches or incisions (e.g. razor blades).

Sexual abuse may result in unexplained soreness, bleeding or injury in genital or anal area.

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Appendix 3

Local Professional Contact List

The local police number is 0845 6070 999. The unit for responsibility for Child Protection is the Child Protection Unit.

In an emergency contact 999.

The Police will contact Social services but in an emergency the Samaritans (08457 909090) will hold the Social Care Duty Officer's contact number.

The Club officers are:

Matt Dean

Junior Section Manager
76A Lewes Road
Ditchling
BN6 8TY

Phone no: 01273 846001

Matthew Searle

Chairman
36 Lewes Road
Ditchling

Phone no: 07896 383991

Dorothy Porter

Club Welfare Officer
Normanhurst
89 Lewes Road
Ditchling

Phone no : 01273 846127
Mobile 07709571238

The Regional Child Welfare Officers are Eddie Hick 01273 736024 and Philip Wright 01273 833761