



BRADFORD DRAGONS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Safeguarding Policy

The Club has adopted the following Safeguarding Policy. The Code of Practice gives practical guidance to Coaches, Players and Parents/Carers.

PRINCIPLES

The Child's welfare is paramount.

We believe all children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

Anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purposes of this document.

Working in partnership with children and their parents/carers is essential for the protection of children.

Members of the Club recognise the statutory responsibility of the Social Services Department to ensure the welfare of the children and are committed to working together with the local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) / Safeguarding Board and to complying with its procedures.

THE MAIN FORMS OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse

This includes, in sports situations, abuse that occurs where the nature and intensity of training disregards the capacity of the child's immature and growing body.

Sexual Abuse

In basketball this might involve, apart from the usual manifestations of sexual abuse, physical contact with children that could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. Also the power of the coach or teacher over young athletes, if misused, may lead to abusive situations developing.

Emotional Abuse

Where a child is constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted, this may make a child nervous and withdrawn. This form of abuse may also arise from unrealistic pressure by a parent, coach or teacher and take the form of bullying in order to achieve high expectations.

Neglect

This may arise where a child is constantly unsupervised or left alone, or where a child has inappropriate clothing in a very cold or unusually warm environment.

LISTENING TO A CHILD

If a child indicates that he or she is being abused, or information is obtained which gives concern that a child may be being abused, the person receiving this information should:

- React calmly so as not to frighten the child
- Tell the child they are not to blame and that it was right to tell
- Take what the child says seriously, recognising the difficulties inherent in interpreting what is said by a child who has a speech disability and/or differences in language
- Keep questions to the absolute minimum necessary to ensure a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said
- Reassure the child, but do not make promises of confidentiality which might not be feasible in the light of subsequent developments
- Make a full record of what has been said, heard and/or seen as soon as possible

RESPONDING TO SUSPICIONS OR ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

It is not the responsibility of Club members or officers to decide whether or not child abuse is taking place. There is, however, a responsibility to protect children in order that appropriate agencies can then make enquiries and take any necessary action to protect the child.

The Club's Director of Safeguarding is [] is available for consultation, as is the Club's Director of Health & Safety [Timothy Redfearn tim.redfearn.bradforddragons@gmail.com] It is therefore the responsibility of person in charge to inform the local Social Services Department without delay. If no person is in charge, the person discovering or being informed of the abuse should immediately contact the Social Services Department or the Police on **999**. If necessary, use the NSPCC free phone helpline on **0800 800 500**. This is a 24 hour service.

The person in charge (or the person with the information) should pass any information they hold to Bradford Social Services Department **01274 437500** daytime, or **01274 530434** out of office hours, or the Police. Otherwise, the information received from the child should in most circumstances be treated as confidential by the person receiving this information.

The information should include: the child's full account; the nature of the allegation; any physical signs of abuse; and relevant dates, times and locations. The information should include fact and not opinion.

Abuse allegation against an Officer or Volunteer of the Club

Where the allegation of abuse is directed against a member or members of the Club or Club officers, the matter should be referred without delay to Bradford Social Services Department. In more serious cases of abuse, the relevant officer of the club should also inform the Police as well as the appropriate officer of England Basketball.

The officers and members of the Club would want to assure all staff and volunteers that the Club would support any person who, in good faith, reports his or her concern that a colleague or other person may be abusing a child.

In such instances, the parent(s) or carers of the child are to be contacted as soon as possible, following advice of from the Bradford Social Services Department.

Every effort shall be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned.

Where the allegation involves a Volunteer, the Club shall take advice from the Bradford Social Services Department as to the action the Club should take in the circumstances towards the volunteer.

Where the allegation involves a Club officer, the Club shall seek advice also from England Basketball as to the appropriate disciplinary steps to take.

The welfare of the child or children concerned shall always remain paramount.

Consideration shall also be given to what support may be appropriate to all those involved, whether children, parents and/or Club officers.

TRAINING AND GOOD PRACTICE

The Club shall seek to ensure that all Club officers shall receive basic training in child protection within 12 months of being appointed in their position. All Club coaches will be CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checked.

The Executive Committee shall ensure that there is a complaints procedure in operation and parents and children have relevant information that will allow easy access to this procedure.

In general, the Club's policy is to promote good practice to reduce the situations where abuse of children can occur and to help protect Officers and Volunteers.

Examples of good practice are:

- always be publicly open when working with children
- avoid situations where a teacher/coach and individual players are completely unobserved
- where any form of manual support is required, this should be provided openly
- the Coach should be extremely careful as it is difficult to maintain hand positions when the child is constantly moving. Some parents are becoming increasingly sensitive about manual support and their views should be taken into account.
- Where possible, parents should take on the responsibility of their children in changing rooms. Where teams have to be supervised in changing rooms, always ensure that more than one Officer, Coach and/or parents are present
- Where there are mixed teams away from home, they should always be accompanied by a male and female member of staff.
- If possible, avoid taking a child alone in a car on anything but a short local journey
- If possible, avoid taking a child to your home where they will be alone with you
- If you need to be alone with a child in a car or in your home, ensure that you have the full consent of the parent(s) or carer(s)
- Avoid inappropriate games, sexually suggestive language, touching or any comment or physical act that could be construed as inappropriate
- If during your care of a child you accidentally hurt them, the child seems distressed in any manner, or appears sexually aroused, or misunderstands or misinterprets something you have said or done, report any incident as soon as possible to a Club Officer or Volunteer and make a brief written note of it. Parents or carers should be informed of the incident unless it is of a more serious nature, when Bradford Social Services Department should first be informed.