

## Sample Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children

### **Always:**

- ❖ Make sport fun, enjoyable and promote fair play
- ❖ Work in an open environment, avoiding private or unobserved situations
- ❖ Treat all participants equally, with respect, dignity and fairness
- ❖ Put the welfare of each child first before winning or achieving performance goals.
- ❖ Be an excellent role model including not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of children
- ❖ Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- ❖ Build balanced relationships based on trust that empower and include children in the decision-making process
- ❖ Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of children and avoid excessive training and competition, pushing them against their will or putting undue pressure on them
- ❖ Involve parents, guardians and carers wherever possible

### **Avoid:**

- ❖ Having favourites – this could lead to resentment and jealousy by other children and could be misinterpreted by others
- ❖ Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
- ❖ Entering children's bedrooms on trips away from home, unless in an emergency situation or in the interest of health and safety
- ❖ Doing things of a personal nature for a child that they can do for themselves

### **Never:**

- ❖ Engage in sexually provocative games including horseplay
- ❖ Engage in rough, physical contact except as permitted within the rules of the game or competition
- ❖ Form intimate emotional, physical or sexual relationships with children
- ❖ Allow or engage in touching a child in a sexually suggestive manner
- ❖ Allow unacceptable behaviour, swearing or sexualised language to go unchallenged
- ❖ Make sexually suggestive comments or gestures to a child, even in fun
- ❖ Reduce a child to tears as a form of control
- ❖ Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- ❖ Invite or allow children to stay with you at your home
- ❖ Share a room alone with a child for sleeping accommodation

## **QUICK GUIDELINES**

### **If a child tells you about abuse:**

1. Take what the child says seriously and listen without interrupting
2. Stay calm without showing shock or distaste
3. Reassure the child that they were right to tell someone
4. Do not make promises or guarantee confidentiality
5. Avoid asking questions. If necessary only ask enough questions to gain basic information and make them open-ended and non-leading e.g. Who? Where?
6. Do not make negative comments about the person against whom the allegation has been made.
7. Record the information in the child's own words, sign and date it and report **immediately** to the Club Child Protection Officer or if unavailable, report directly to the police or social services department
8. Where the child is at immediate risk, advice should always be sought from the police or social services

### **If you suspect abuse or receive an allegation about an adult:**

1. Remember that the welfare of the child is paramount
2. Record, sign and date the information given and report immediately to the Club Child Protection Officer or if unavailable, report directly to the police or social services
3. Do not place yourself or anyone else in a compromising position

## CONTACTS

Local Social Services Department

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Local Police Office

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Club Child Protection Officer

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Scottish Governing Body

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Child Protection in Sport Service  
**0141 418 5674**

ParentLine Scotland  
**0808 800 2222**

ChildLine Scotland  
**0800 1111**

### **REMEMBER!**

*It is not your duty to investigate*

*It is your duty to report concerns*

*Always seek advice if you are unsure*