



PE PARTNER

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

PE PARTNER is committed to ensuring that all children and young people who participate in our sport are able to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment. It is our responsibility to take every possible action to both protect them from abuse and to react positively and effectively to any concerns which may arise regarding their welfare. All associated schools, clubs, academies and individuals will be expected to support this policy and to comply with the associated procedures.

Through our selection and recruitment screening processes, our reporting procedures, and through the training we will provide access to, we are determined to do all we can to prevent this occurring.

This policy and the attached procedures are based on a number of principles recognised both within and outside of sport. They are recognised both in UK legislation and in international agreements**.

Above all, the welfare of the child/young person is paramount. Each of them, whatever their ethnicity, gender, age, sexual identity, disability or religion or culture, has a right to be protected from physical and emotional harm. Their welfare is our concern and as the providers of activities designed for them, and as responsible adults, we must not fail them.

* For the purposes of this statement a child is defined as someone below 13 years and a young person between 13 and 17 years.

** The Children Act 1989, The Children (Northern Ireland) Order, The Children (Scotland) Act, and The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

To all PE PARTNER Coaches: As someone who works with children or young people, you may become concerned that one of them is possibly being, or has been, abused at home or in some other situation. This concern may be raised in a number of ways including:

- Their confiding in you as a person he/she has come to trust.
- A third party, perhaps another child, sharing their concerns with you may also become concerned through observing:
- a bruise or injury that is unusual, e.g. on a part of the body which is not normally prone to such injuries
- injuries which require but have not received medical attention
- unexplained changes in behaviour
- age inappropriate sexual knowledge
- sexually inappropriate behaviour
- their being discouraged from socialising with others of the same age
- their becoming dirty or unkempt
- changes to eating patterns

Many children and young people will exhibit some of these indicators at some time and the presence of one or more should not be taken as proof that abuse is occurring. There may well be other reasons such as a death or crises in the family, the birth of a new child, etc.

Your knowledge of a child over a period of time may help you understand whether there is at least some cause for you to be concerned.

You may also wish to discuss your concerns with their parents or carers who may be able to reassure you.

This should not be done, however, if you think that to do so would put them in even greater danger because you believe it may be the parent or carer who is physically or sexually abusing the child or young person.

Responding to a child or young person: If a child or young person confides in you that they are being, or have been, abused they have placed you in a position of trust. Trust that you will act to help them, even if they ask you not to do anything or tell anyone. Simply through their telling you they have demonstrated their trust that you will act. It is important in this situation to remain calm, listen carefully and only ask questions of clarification if you do not understand something. Do not ask questions simply to obtain additional information. Do take them seriously and reassure them they were right to tell. Do not criticise the person they say has abused them or allow them to see any distress in you. And, do not promise either that you will keep the information to yourself or what the outcome will be.

The best thing you can do is to acknowledge their courage in telling, reassure them they should not feel guilty and tell them what you will now do. After reporting, your role will be to support the child/young person as appropriate. It is important to remember that you should not ignore your own judgment as to whether or not to be concerned. More important, however, is to remember that it is not your responsibility to determine whether abuse is occurring or not. Identifying abuse is a difficult and complex task and is the responsibility of the Social Services and Police.

Your responsibility is to ensure that your concerns are passed to the relevant people and your actions are recorded, as set out in the following procedure.

Procedure to be followed if you have concerns that a child or young person may be being abused at home or elsewhere

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN: If a child/young person, or someone else on behalf of them, discloses abuse to you or you become concerned that abuse is occurring or has occurred you must immediately inform the person in charge of the club, school or academy. It is their

responsibility to inform Social Services and Nick Powell at PE Partner. Outside of normal office hours the Social Services Out of Hours Duty Officer' should be contacted. If for any reason it is not possible to contact Social Services, the Police should be informed. If the person in charge is not available, you must immediately inform the Authorities as above and then inform the person in charge as soon as possible.

When contacting Social Services or the Police, the caller should:

- state that this is a child protection referral
- be prepared to give your name, role and contact number
- have the name, address and date of birth of the child/young person
- provide details of the nature of the allegation or the concerns
- provide details of anything they have said, preferably in their own words
- provide any other relevant information you may have.

You should also be advised by them as regards any contact with the family or discussion with other adults. Keep a record of the name and designation of the person to whom the referral was made and confirm the details of the call, in writing, within 24 hours.

* If, however, your club is run as a school activity you should follow the school's child protection procedures as normal and then notify Nick Powell at PE PARTNER

As someone involved with children and young people through sport, you may also become concerned that one of them is at risk from, or has been abused by, someone associated with your club, school or academy. This concern may be raised in a number of ways including:

- the child/young person confiding in you as a person he/she has come to trust
 - a third party, perhaps another child or colleague, sharing their concerns with you, you may also become concerned through observing:
 - an adult consistently ignoring the '_Good Practice' guidelines
 - the attitude of a child or group of children/young people changing with respect to a specific adult PROCEDURE FOR RECORDING CHILD PROTECTION REFERRALS
- Once you have informed the appropriate authorities of your concerns, as set out above, you should:
- make a detailed note of the circumstances leading to the referral, i.e. what was said to you, by whom, where and when, whether there was anyone else present. Anything which will help to explain the context to the referral being made.
 - detail anything such as an injury or behaviour which you directly observed which gave you cause to be concerned.
 - make a record of all actions taken by you. Whom did you speak to, what was said, etc? This should be in as much detail as possible and should include the designation of the person to whom the information was passed or to whom the referral was made.
 - forward a copy of this record to Nick Powell at PE Partner, marked CONFIDENTIAL, FOR ADDRESSEE'S EYES ONLY.
 - retain a copy of this record in a secure place for future reference.

Remember, it is essential for the sake of the child/young person and because legal proceedings could result from your referral that you retain confidentiality. You should not discuss the event nor show the written records to anyone else without the express consent of the Social Services and Nick Powell at PE PARTNER.

Principles of '_Good Practice' The following '_good practice' guidelines have been developed in order to reduce, as far as possible, the risk of anyone using our sport to gain access to children or young people. They will also protect staff and volunteers* from the risk of their actions being misinterpreted and from false allegations. Most of all, however, they demonstrate our commitment to the welfare of children. Recruitment and Selection No person is allowed to participate in any activity, which in any way brings them into contact with children or young people, without their having undergone appropriate screening. Candidates should also supply the names of at least two people, not relatives, who will provide references that comment on their suitability for, and if possible, their previous work with, children or young people. Guidelines which can help reduce risk:

- all staff and volunteers should be aware of these Policy and Procedures
- all staff and volunteers should complete the NSPCC/EduCare Child Protection Awareness Programme
- adults should show respect for children and young people at all times
- parents/carers should be involved in club activities as much as possible
- work should be planned in a way which minimises any opportunity for abuse e.g. avoiding situations in which an adult is alone with a child
- adults should never take, or offer to take, a child to their home
- agree in advance with parents/carers when it is allowed for males to enter female dressing/changing rooms and vice versa and ensure all children and young people are aware of these arrangements
- ensure at least two responsible adults are on-site prior to children arriving and have clear plans to cover situations such as parents/carers failing to arrive to collect a child/young person after a practice or a match
- do not allow abusive activities such as ridiculing or bullying to take place and agree, with parents/carers how, by whom and under what circumstances any specific medical or care need of the child/young person will be met
- be aware of the prejudice and discrimination experienced by children and young people from ethnic minorities and the increased vulnerability of those with a disability. They may feel less able to share their worries with you.

General guidelines for the care of children and young people within sport

- Coaches to child ratio – adults are responsible for the safety and well-being of children and young people in their care. Although 1:16 (PE PARTNER adopts 1:14) is sometimes used as an acceptable ratio for active sports, attention needs to be given by coaches to the ages of the children/young people and the circumstances, to ensure they are able to properly meet this responsibility.
- Weather conditions – common sense should prevail. Conditions of heat, cold and rain must be taken into account in deciding whether to proceed, postpone or use indoor facilities.
- Playing/training times – again, common sense would suggest this should be linked with prevailing conditions and the ages of the children/young people. Coaches should monitor the players closely, paying particular attention to their levels of interest, concentration and physical reactions and respond appropriately.

- Food and drink – adequate fluid should be available at all times and drinks stops encouraged, particularly if it is hot. As a guide, 200ml, the equivalent of a paper cup should be taken every 20 minutes during exercise.
- First aid – it is recommended that an appropriately trained adult is present at all times during either practice or playing.

Conclusion The best interests of the child/young person MUST be at the forefront of all decisions made by PE PARTNER coaches. The safety of the participants is of paramount importance.

For all enquiries regarding this policy, please contact: Nick Powell PE PARTNER T: 01133226115 E: n.powell@pepartner.co.uk