



Abuse

Applicable to: Stoolball England Volunteer Workforce

Date of Origination: June 2005

Effective From: November 2005

Lead Officer: Stoolball England Welfare Officer

Status: **CURRENT**

Approved by the Management Committee on: January 2018

For Review (Annually): Next review: January 2019

APPENDIX 6

Internal Case Management

This guide is designed to inform the most appropriate action in relation to concerns about the behaviour of coaches or volunteers within Stoolball

1. Physical Abuse

This definition concerns actual or likely physical injury to a child and covers all physically injured children under the age of 18 years. It occurs where the nature of the injury is not consistent with the account of how it occurred or where there is definite knowledge, or a reasonable suspicion, that the injury was inflicted (or knowingly not prevented) by any person having custody, or care of the child.

In sport this might include situations where the nature and intensity of training and competition exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body; the physical chastisement of young athletes; where drugs are used to enhance performance or delay puberty.

2. Neglect

This definition concerns the persistent or severe neglect of a child (whether actual or likely) or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger (including cold or starvation). It also includes extreme failure to carry out important aspects of care and results in the significant impairment of the child's health or development. Such instances include the non-organic failure to thrive and deprivation of essential medicinal drugs.

In sport this could include a teacher or coach not ensuring that children were safe; exposing them to undue heat or cold, or to unnecessary risk of injury.

3. Emotional Abuse (Psychological Maltreatment)

This definition concerns actual (or likely) persistent or severe psychological ill treatment. Emotional neglect consists of cases where affection and basic emotional care giving/warmth are absent or have been withheld and criticism is common. These are extreme cases where emotional abuse has resulted in a severe impact upon the child's behaviour and/or physical development.

In sport such practise might include children being subjected to constant criticism, name-calling, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations consistently

4. Sexual Abuse

This definition concerns the actual or likely occurrence of a sexual act(s) to a child by another person (whether such a person is an adult or young person of either gender). The key issue in assessing whether sexual abuse has occurred is that of exploitation (*see below).

In sport, coaching techniques that involve physical contact with children could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. The power of a coach over young performers, if misused, may also lead to abusive situations developing.

5. Exploitation

Exploitation covers the balance of power between the child and the other person at the time that the sexual activity first occurred. Thus exploitation is considered to have occurred if the activity was unwanted when it first began and/or involved a misuse of conventional age, authority or gender differentials. (See the Home Office Guidelines on Caring for Young People and the Vulnerable).

Some particular groups of people (e.g. disabled people and individuals from minority ethnic groups) are already considered to be vulnerable to exploitation, and this may exacerbate the effects of abuse.