

Colwyn Bay FC
Llanelian Road,
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Child Protection Policy

Background

The F.A. Child Protection Procedures and Practices Handbook place a clear responsibility on clubs to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. The purpose of this policy is to inform all managers and parents about these responsibilities and to enable everyone to have a clear understanding of how they are to be carried out. The Club follows the procedures contained in the F.A. Child Protection Procedures and Practices Handbook - a guide to procedure and practice for all F.A. coaches/trainers.

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

Club Policy Statement

- The welfare of the child is paramount;
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs 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;
- All Club members have a responsibility to report concerns to the designated Child Protection Officer

CBFC has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in the Club from harm. All children have a right to protection. CBFC will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in the Club through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the Club.

Child Protection Responsibilities Accepted by CBFC

- The Club has a designated Child Protection Officer.
- The Club has adopted clear and sound policies on confidentiality and will maintain all written evidence about child protection issues in a secure place. It will provide accurate information to the F.A. and Social Services, where appropriate, normally through the designated Child Protection Officer.

- The Club will provide training and yearly refresher meetings for trainers -through the "Train the Trainer" medium - to ensure that their skills and expertise are up to date.

The Designated Child Protection Officer

Key responsibilities of this role are to:

- Ensure that the F.A's Child Protection procedures are followed within the Club.
- Ensure that all managers are aware of these procedures.
- Ensure that appropriate training and support is provided.
- Decide whether to take further action about particular concerns.
- Report to the F.A / Social Services where appropriate over suspected cases of child abuse.

Club Procedures

Introduction

Any adult member of the Youth Section could be approached by a child needing help or guidance. Likewise any manager may be in a position to notice or be concerned about physical or sexual abuse or neglect.

If any manager is concerned about a child they must inform the designated Child Protection Officer, unless the designated Child Protection Officer is the cause of that concern. In which case, they must inform another qualified coach (all CBFC Youth Section managers are trained in child protection)

Information regarding the concerns must be recorded by the manager / Child Protection Officer on the same day. The recording must be a clear, precise, factual account of the observations and must be signed and dated. The designated Child Protection Officer will decide whether the concerns should be referred to the F.A. / Social Services. Concerns will not be discussed with the parents before the designated Child Protection Officer has consulted with the F.A / Social Services.

Web Site

All players in the youth section sides will be referred to by first name only on the web site. Those with the same first name will be differentiated by the first letter of the surname. No individual portraits will be published on the web site. Team group photos and action photos will only be published on the web site without naming the players.

When to be Concerned

Managers should take note if any of the following are observed:

- Any injury that is not typical of the bumps and scrapes normally associated with children's activities.
- Regular occurrence of unexplained injuries.
- Confused or conflicting explanations of how injuries were sustained.
- Significant changes in behaviour or attitude.
- Sexual behaviour which is unusually explicit or inappropriate to the child's age.
- A recounting of an experience by a child in which they have been significantly harmed.

Dealing with a Disclosure

The following points give guidance on how managers should deal with disclosures made to them:

- Do not promise confidentiality.
- Explain who you will have to tell and why.
- Listen to what is being said, without displaying shock or disbelief.
- Accept what is being said.
- Allow the child to talk freely, limit any questions to a minimum. Seek only to clarify and strictly avoid leading the child or adult who has made the approach by making suggestions or introducing your own ideas into what may have happened.
- Never ask questions such as "Did he do X to you?" Instead use a minimum number of questions of the "Tell me what happened" type.
- If it is an adult making the approach and it becomes obvious that they are making a significant allegation concerning either abuse or neglect, you may feel it appropriate to stop them and refer to the designated Child Protection Officer, unless he is the subject of the allegation, to avoid repetition of the details.
- Be especially careful to distinguish between fact and opinion. Note also any noticeable non-verbal behaviour.
- Reassure the child but do not make promises that you cannot keep. · Reassure the child that what has happened is not their fault.
- Stress that the child has done the right thing by telling you.
- Do not enter the child's account by condemning or criticising the perpetrator.

By following correct procedures you are protecting yourself and the Club. If any manager at any stage has concerns for their own safety, especially owing to having made a referral, they should immediately involve the designated Child Protection Officer who will promptly involve the F.A. / Social Services, or if necessary the police.