

ITF Coaches Education Programme



Coaching Beginner and Intermediate Players Course

Protecting Children: a Guide for Sports people - 2

Effects of Abuse



- Death
- Suffer pain and distress
- Develop behavioural difficulties
- Experience a developmental delay
- Experience school-related problems
- Develop low self-esteem
- Suffer depression
- Become withdrawn
- Suffer temporary or permanent injury
- Transfer into adult life

Risks



- Some children are more vulnerable
- High levels of stress
- Previous violence in the family
- Poor relationship
- The age of the child
- Very young children
- Ethnic minorities
- Children in a sport situation
- Abused children

Identifying Signs of Abuse - Neglect

- Child's health or development
- Physical indicators
 - Constant hunger
 - An unkempt state
 - Loss of weight
 - Inappropriate dress
- Behavioural indicators
 - Being tired all the time
 - Frequently being late
 - Failing to attend medical appointments
 - Having few friends
 - Being left alone

Physical abuse



- Important indicator of physical abuse
 - Unexplained
 - Untreated
 - Inadequately treated
 - Parts of the body
- Bruising
 - Unexplained bruising
 - Bruises that reflect hand or fingertips
 - Cigarette burns
 - Bite marks
 - Broken bones
 - Scalds

Physical abuse



- Behavioural indicators
 - Fear of parents being contacted
 - Aggressive behaviour
 - Running away
 - Fear of going home
 - Flinching when approached
 - Reluctance to get changed for sport
 - Covering arms and legs
 - Depression
 - Withdrawn behaviour

Sexual Abuse



- How will you know?
- Children may tell you directly or indirectly
- Physical indicators
 - Pain or itching in the genital area
 - Bruising or bleeding near genital area
 - A sexually transmitted disease
 - Vaginal discharge or infection
 - Stomach pains
 - Discomfort when walking or sitting down
 - Pregnancy

Sexual Abuse



- Behavioural indicators
 - Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour
 - Apparent fear of someone
 - Running away from home
 - Having nightmares
 - Sexual knowledge
 - Sexual drawings
 - Bed-wetting
 - Eating problems
 - Self-harm or mutilation
 - Children having secrets
 - Substance or drug abuse
 - Money
 - Parental role
 - Not allowed to have friends
 - Adults
 - Abuse

Emotional Abuse



- Most difficult to measure
- Potential emotional abuse
- Physical Indicators
 - Failure to thrive or grow
 - Sudden speech disorders
 - Development delay
- Behavioural indicators
 - Neurotic behaviour
 - Being unable to play
 - Excessive fear of making mistakes
 - Sudden speech disorders
 - Self-harm or mutilation
 - Fear of parents being contacted

Emotional Abuse-Good Practice

- Touching of any form
- Sexually suggestive comments
- Derogatory
- Inappropriate language
- Sexually provocative games or horseplay
- Do things of a personal nature for children

Bullying and Harassment

- Damage
- Considerable distress to children
- Physical indicators
 - Stomach-aches or headaches
 - Difficulty in sleeping
 - Bed-wetting
 - Scratching or bruising
 - Damaged clothes
 - Bingeing
 - A shortage of money
 - Frequent loss of possessions

Bullying and Harassment

- Behavioural indicators
 - Reduced concentration
 - Becoming withdrawn or depressed
 - Being clingy
 - Being emotionally up and down
 - A reluctance to go to a school/training
 - A drop in performance in sport or at school

Taking Appropriate Action - Introduction



- False allegations
- Immediate action
- Involve dealing with the child
- Consider how you should respond to a child
- Fun and safe sporting environment for children

Dealing with Disclosures of Abuse

- Trust in whom they feel safe with
- Share close relationship
- Children want the abuse to stop
- Protect them
- Avoid putting yourself at risk
- Timing and location
 - See you alone
 - End of the session
 - Take time
 - Appropriate time

Responding to the Child



- Great deal of courage
- Do not panic
- Acknowledge
- Reassure the child is not to blame
- Understand what the child is saying
- Be honest straight away
- Promise
- Listen and believe the child

Responding to the Child



- Shock
- Questions to a minimum
- Avoid closed questions
- More information
- Child use their own words
- Negative comments
- End the disclosure
- Do not approach the alleged abuser

Recording the Disclosure

- Written record
- Completed the written record
 - Sign and date it
 - Provide copies for your manager
 - Store the information
- Dealing with Bullying
 - Develop guidelines
 - Promote
 - Take all signs of bullying seriously

Dealing with bullying cont.

- Involve parents and carers
- Do not ignore the victim or the bully
- Change their behaviour
- Follow general guidelines
- Invite professional organizations
- Share concerns
- Follow up what you do

Responding to Observations

- Children
 - Nature of coaching
 - Fitness assessment
- Colleagues
 - Consider your own and colleagues actions
 - Observe others lessons
- Sharing your Concerns
 - Disclosure or an observation
 - Mixture of emotions
 - Feelings
 - Child's long term future

Sharing your concerns



- Sharing with a Senior Colleague
 - Sport situations
 - Sports club
 - Voluntary capacity
- Sharing with Parents/Carers
 - Partnership with parents or carers
 - Clarify initial concerns
 - Behavioural changes
 - Inform club/organization

Sharing with Professionals

- Inform social services and/or police
- Senior colleague
- Process
 - Child protection
 - Social services
 - Medical attention
 - Record carefully

Dealing with Difficult Situations

- Allegations against Parents/Carers
 - Greater risk
 - Record in writing
 - Refer your concerns
 - Remember
 - Maintain confidentiality
 - Person in charge follows up
 - Seek advice

Allegations Against Staff/Volunteers

- Welfare of each child
- Hearing allegations
- Colleague
- Consequences
- Three types of investigations
- Child protection officer
- Immediate decision
- Appropriate disciplinary procedure

Responsibilities of Agencies/Organizations



- Your Club/Organization
 - Contact
 - Child protection policy
 - Designated person
 - Solutions
- National Governing Bodies
 - Publish
 - Manual handling
 - Protect coaches

Responsibilities of Agencies/Organizations



- Local Authorities
- Social Services
 - Wide range of care
 - Investigate
 - Assessment
 - Child's needs
 - Child safe
 - Child's welfare
 - Wider family circumstances
 - Sharing information
 - Principle point of contact

Responsibilities of Agencies/Organizations



- Police
- Taking Preparatory Action
 - Suspected abuse
 - Action points
 - Children's names
 - Phone Numbers
 - Addresses
 - Obtain a map

Summary



- Welfare of the child
- Talk to parents
- Coach
- Social Services
- Urgent medical attention
- Record carefully
- Confidentiality