



PENRITH CRICKET CLUB CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

AIMS

To clarify the steps to be taken when child protection issues are identified and to ensure all coaches are familiar with them prior to them undertaking a coaching role.

This will be the responsibility of the appointed Child Welfare Officers currently Mark Osborne (01768 866906) and Carolyn Atkinson (01768 892814), who are required to keep updated and inform coaches of any changes regarding child protection laws and/or best practice.

To ensure children receive appropriate advice from the appropriate agencies where required eg police, Social Services Department, etc.

PRINCIPLES

The information in this policy is based on the following principles:-

- a) the child's welfare is paramount;
- b) all children have the right to protection from abuse;
- c) all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;
- d) all children have the right to be safe and treated with dignity and respect;
- e) all coaches have recourse against any allegations made against them.

PROCEDURES - WHAT TO DO

- 1) If there are concerns about the welfare of a child these should be reported immediately to the Child Welfare Officers.

2) It is the responsibility of this/these person(s) to inform the Social Services Department without delay. If these persons are not available the person discovering or being informed of the abuse should immediately contact the Social Services Department or the Police.

3) If anyone is not sure what to do advice can be obtained by telephoning the NSPCC 24 hour free phone Helpline - the number is 0800 800500.

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NB: a coach should never question a child beyond brief enquiries about the suspicions. You may later be accused of “putting words into their mouths”.

4) Coaches seeking help in defence of any allegation should be encouraged to seek support through:-

- a) reference to legal advice, eg solicitors, etc.;
- b) Citizens Advice Bureau;
- c) National Coaching Foundation (if a member);
- d) Association of Cricket Coaches (if a member).

5) If any of the above circumstances arise this should be recorded in the Incident Book (copy in the Club).

PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE

It is important that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure unsuitable people are prevented from working with children. Therefore:-

- 1) Any person wishing to join the Club as a coach/volunteer should complete the application form for a coaching/voluntary position.
- 2) All coaches/volunteers should complete a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) form to ensure that they are fit and proper persons to work as a coach/volunteer with children. The completed form should be handed to Mark Osborne for completion and submission.
- 3) All coaches/volunteers are required to attend a training course reference child protection issues.
- 4) All coaches/volunteers should undergo an induction programme to ensure they are aware of the Club’s Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct and to ascertain their abilities.

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GUIDELINES FOR COACHES WHEN DEALING WITH INJURIES TO SENSITIVE AREAS

- 1) If a child suffers injury to an intimate part of his or her body the coach should only check the injury if the child gives his/her consent. There should ALWAYS be another adult present at ALL times. It may be more appropriate to contact the child's parents to carry out an examination as required.
- 2) If a coach is unsure of how to proceed, the incident should be discussed with the person in charge.
- 3) All physical injuries suffered by children should be reported in the Accident Book (copy in the Club).

FURTHER INFORMATION

This Child Protection Policy is designed to provide guidelines on appropriate actions and procedures to be undertaken.

For further detail and information all coaches should consult the "Child Protection Policy Statement" published by the England and Wales Cricket Board (copy in the Club).