



## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY - April 2015**

### **DECLARATION**

Cherry Burton Football Club accepts that the welfare of children is paramount and that all children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender or religious belief have the right to protection from abuse. The Club is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people to practice Youth Football.

We do this by:

1. Recognising that all children have the right to freedom from abuse.
2. Ensuring that all our volunteers are carefully selected and accept responsibility for helping to prevent the abuse of children in their care. (All Team Managers, Coaches and the Club Child Protection Officer(s) will be Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked.
3. Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and providing parents and children with the opportunity to voice all concerns they may have.
4. Appointing a Child Protection Officer who will take specific responsibility for child safety and act as the main point of contact for parents, children and outside agencies.
5. Ensuring access to confidential information is restricted to the Child Protection Officer or the appropriate external authorities.
6. Reviewing the effectiveness of our Child Protection Policy and activities each year at the Annual General Meeting.
7. Ensuring all suspicions and allegations of abuse are taken seriously and responded to without delay.
8. Ensuring all parents and carers are aware of this policy.
9. Ensuring key volunteers have attended child protection training and first aid training.

Our Child Protection Officer is Phil Whitfield

### **GUIDANCE FOR CLUB VOLUNTEERS**

## **TEAM MANAGERS AND ASSISTANTS**

Should always treat all players with respect and dignity and should avoid bad language or aggressive / suggestive / sarcastic tone of voice.

### **THEY SHOULD NEVER**

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games including horseplay, allow or engage in inappropriate or intrusive touching of any kind.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child even in a light hearted way.
- Let allegations a child makes go un-challenged, always act.
- Invade the privacy of children when they are changing / showering or using the toilet.
- Use offensive or bullying language (eg. sexist language)

### **THEY SHOULD AVOID**

- Doing things of a personal nature which children can do for themselves such as changing.
- Time alone with children away from others.
- Taking children alone on car journeys no matter how short.
- Taking children to their home.

Where these situations are unavoidable they must seek parental consent first where at all possible. If this proves to be impossible they must always inform the parents of the circumstances without delay.

## **WHERE A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE**

- Do not react in a way that may add to the child's distress for example by showing anger shock or aggression.
- Listen carefully to the child. Tell them that whatever the circumstances they are not to blame.
- Stay calm and reassuring.
- Do not question the child in depth and do not ask leading questions.
- Only ask questions to establish exactly what was done and who did it.
- Do let the child know that you understand it is ok to talk about such experiences.
- You should inform the Club Chairman and Secretary immediately.
- Do not contact the parents until you have received advice.
- It is important to make an accurate record of the time and date of the disclosure and what was said.

- Report to Social Services or the Police if your concern is high

## **FORMS OF ABUSE**

**Sexual:-** of various forms physically or showing children pornography books or videos or taking pornographic photographs or videos.

**Physical:-** Injuries to children by hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting or burning. In football as with other sports physical abuse may occur when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's body.

**Neglect:-** Where adults do not meet a child's basic physical needs which are food, warmth, and clothing. Where children are regularly left alone unsupervised and where adults fail to give children love, affection or attention.

**Emotional:-** Where children are frequently being shouted at or taunted or where they are over protected and do not develop good social skills. Emotional abuse in football may include situations where parents and coaches subject children to constant criticism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to an unreasonably high expectations.

## **WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

- Aggressive, withdrawn or fear of one person.
- Unexplained sources of money.
- Inappropriate sexual drawings, language or behaviour.
- Unexplained or untreated injuries. Injuries to unlikely or unusual parts of the body.
- Cigarette burns, bites, belt marks or scalds.
- Fear of parents being contacted, fear of going home or receiving medical advice.
- Flinching when touched.
- Poor personal hygiene.
- Constantly hungry.
- Lonely, no friends.
- Under-weight.
- No parent support or intervention.
- Dishevelled appearance.
- Over-reaction to mistakes.
- Extremes of emotions.
- Self mutilation.

There may be other signs or you may feel that there is something wrong without any of the signs. If so you must do something positive by discussing your

concerns with the Club Chairman and Secretary. They then should contact the East Riding County FA's Child Protection Officer.

This policy will be sent to the East Riding Council Local Safeguarding Children's Board and will be reviewed annually.

Copy to:  
Dave Herring  
East Riding Safeguarding Children's Board  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Council Offices  
Market Green  
Cottingham  
HU16 5QG