

CULCHETH ATHLETIC JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Policy for Child Protection

Introduction

The Culcheth Athletic Junior Football Club (CAJFC) Child Protection Policy is based on the Football Association's Child Protection and Best Practice guideline as published under "Goal – a better future for football" (Workshop 2: 18/10/02), and also incorporates the Child Protection Policy Statement of Culcheth Sports Club. As part of CAJFC's commitment to Charter Standard status with the Football association, a team manager/coach from each team will maintain valid Child Protection Workshop Certificates, and a Nominated Contact for Child Protection (NCCP), elected from the Membership of CAJFC, will be responsible for overseeing Child Protection Issues within CAJFC. The policy statement mirrors that of the Football Association and covers:

- Making football safe for children
- Best Practice
- Abuse and poor practice
- Taking action

Making Football safe for children

The United Nations Convention on Children's Rights (1989) states that children have the right to respect, information about themselves, to be protected from harm, have a say in their life, a good start and to feel safe and secure. CAJFC will ensure that these rights are respected through the organisation of the Club and training of the Membership in relation to the activities of the club. Through participation in authorised Child Protection Workshops, CAJFC will ensure that the Membership of the club are able to be responsible for helping to ensure the safety and to prevent the abuse of children in their care.

The NCCP will be the main contact for the Club with the Child Protection Officer (CPO) of the Lancashire County Football Association, and will ensure that the Club retains a current copy of the FA guidelines for Child protection and best practice . The CPO receives information from persons involved in clubs and records and assesses it, and takes any necessary action with the FA/NSPCC Helpline, FA Child Protection Department, Social Services or Police. The NCCP will act as a point of contact for referrals and concerns within CAJFC with respect to child protection matters and refer these to the CPO or the FA/NSPCC Helpline. In all child protection matters, the NCCP will ensure that access to confidential information is restricted to the relevant Officers and external agencies. In addition, the NCCP will implement the FA's child protection and best practice guidelines within the structure of CAJFC, implement the FA child protection policy and procedures, and promote the benefits of the FA Child Protection education programme. The latter duty will ensure that the effectiveness of the child protection policy and activities are reviewed each year, and

that Members retain a valid certificate of attendance at a FA-approved Child Protection Workshop.

Best Practice

The Membership of CAJFC will abide by the standards and Codes of Conduct as set down by the FA for coaches and officials. In particular, the Membership should protect themselves by observing the following rules:

- a. Avoid spending too much time alone with one child away from the others.
- b. Avoid taking children to their home where they would be alone with the child.
- c. Never take part in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- d. Never share a room with a child.
- e. Never allow or take part in any form of inappropriate touching.
- f. Never allow children to use inappropriate language.
- g. Never make sexually-suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- h. Never reduce a child to tears as a form of control.
- i. Never allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- j. Never do things of a personal nature for children and vulnerable adult that they can do for themselves.
- k. Never invite or allow children to stay with them at their home unsupervised.
- l. Never accept bullying, rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.

CAJFC will ensure, when appropriate, that all Members complete personal disclosure forms for a mandatory police check. This will be performed in conjunction with the CPO. In the event of a Member having an undisclosed criminal record detailed by the search, the NCCP will discuss with the Member, the CPO and the Officers of CAJFC to decide upon acceptance to unsupervised practice with respect to managing a team or coaching children.

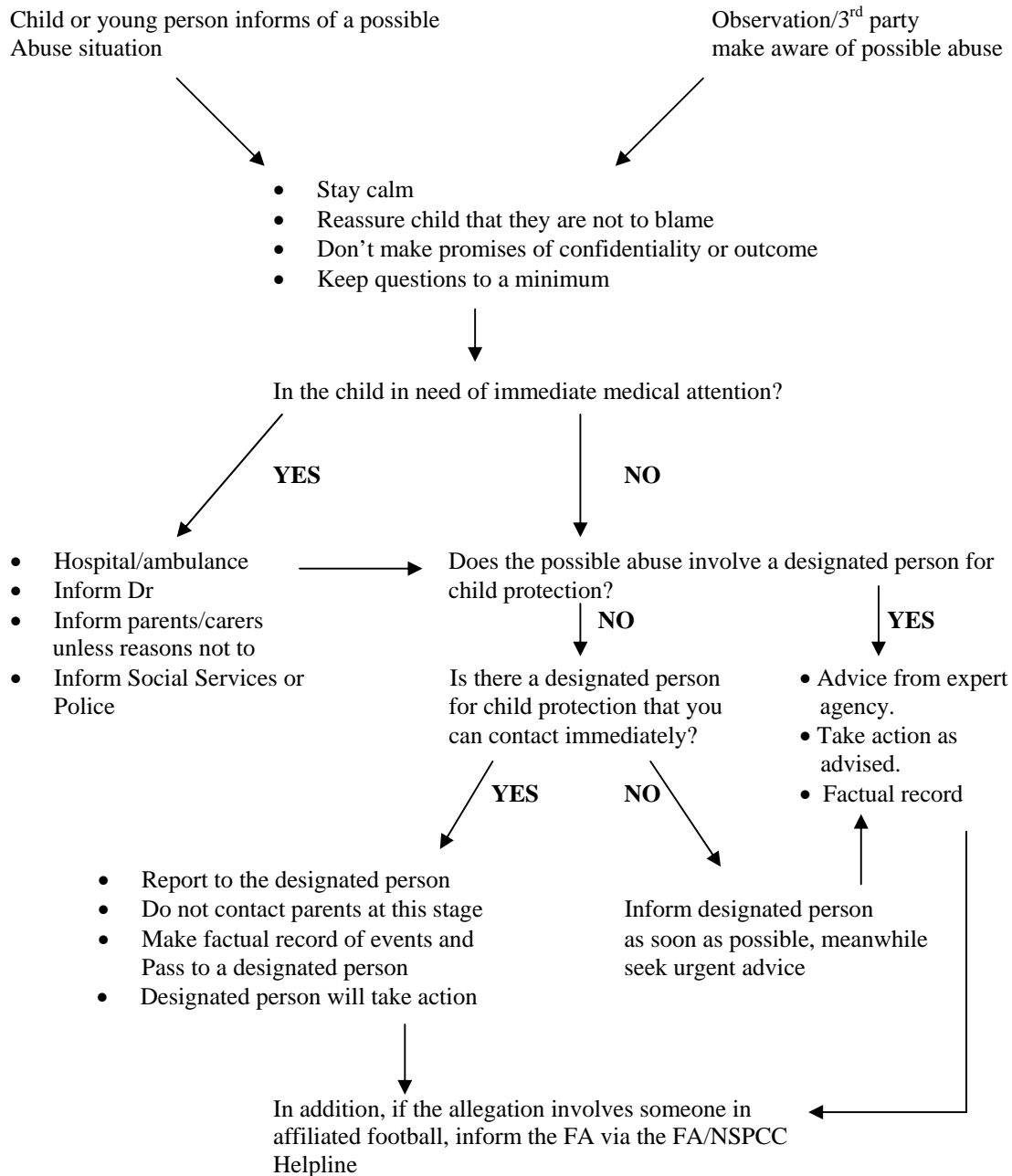
Signs, symptoms and forms of abuse and poor practice

Child abuse is often difficult to detect, even by expert agencies. The role of the Member is not to decide whether or not abuse is taking place if this is suspected, but to recognise the symptoms and sign that suggest that a child is in danger or is suffering as a result of someone's poor practice. In particular, Members are expected to be aware of the symptoms and signs of:

- a. Neglect: for example, inadequate playing kit in winter or playing when injured.
- b. Physical abuse: for example, training methods that are not appropriate to a child's development or age.
- c. Sexual abuse: for example, inappropriate intimate relationships.
- d. Emotional abuse: for example, imposition of unrealistic standards on players.
- e. Bullying: for example, one child may intimidate another.

Pages 39 and 52-53 of "Goal – a better future for football" describes a comprehensive summary of the types and signs of abuse. Members will be familiar with this information through participation in FA Workshops related to this subject.

Taking Action



In the event of suspected or disclosure of child abuse, Members will inform the NCCP, or expert agency such as the social services, police or the FA/NSPCC Helpline (telephone: 0808 800 500) as directed by the flow diagram above.

Eddy Estlin 2005.