

Surbiton Hockey Club

CODE OF CONDUCT & GOOD PRACTICE IN THE CARE OF CHILDREN



General Good Practice in the Care of Children

England Hockey acknowledges that good practice when dealing with children is essential. All people caring for children are expected to adhere to the following guidelines when dealing with players:

- Always be publicly open when working with children. Ensure that wherever possible there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people.
- Manual support is rarely required in the sport of hockey. If an adult feels that it is necessary, the reasons should be clearly explained to the child. Be aware that any physical contact with a child or young person may be misinterpreted.
- Where possible parents should be responsible for their own child in the changing rooms
- Treat all children and young people with respect
- Provide an example of good conduct you would wish others to follow
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- Encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable enough to point out attitudes or behaviour that they do not like
- Remember that someone might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned

- Recognise that special caution is required when dealing with sensitive issues with children or young people
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations or suspicions of abuse

All people caring for children should also be aware that it does not make sense to:

- Spend excessive amounts of time alone with children on their own
- Take children alone on car journeys, however short
- Take children to your home where they will be alone with you.

If cases like these arise they should only occur with the full knowledge and consent of the child's parents.

YOU SHOULD NEVER:

- Engage in rough, physical, or sexually provocative games.
- Allow or engage in any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- Allow allegations of a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Do things of a personal nature for children which they can do for themselves
- Invite or allow children to stay with you at your home unsupervised
- Allow bullying or bad behaviour by children
- Allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour or make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young people
- Jump to conclusions without checking the facts
- Either exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues

- Show favouritism to any individual
- Believe “it could never happen to me”

What to do:

If a child says or indicates that he/she is being abused or you have concerns about the wellbeing of a child, you should:

- Take the time to listen seriously to what the young person is saying. This is vital.
- Reassure the young person but do not make promises about what you can and cannot do.
- Quietly state that as you take this seriously you will have to talk to someone else about it. This will often distress them, but it is vital that you do take the information to the appropriate place.
- Do not cross examine the young person or ask specific questions about details
- Make a full record of what has been said, heard or seen, as soon as possible. Always tell the young person that this is what you will do.
- Ask the child if immediate protection is needed.
- Complete the Report Form and contact your Child Protection Officer as soon as possible.

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