

16. DEFINITIONS OF POOR PRACTICE

GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING TYPES OF POOR PRACTICE

Breaches of the RCCC Child Protection policy and procedures:

Examples include:

- No child protection officer within a club/organisation/affiliated body
- Inadequate safeguarding arrangements
- Providing inadequate supervision and/or care
- Failure to respond appropriately to concerns
- Expelling anyone from the club who raises a concern
- Excluding parents from observing or asking questions about training
- Inappropriate use of photographic equipment or materials

Breaches of recognised best practice in coaching:

Examples include:

- Providing coaching or running a session without another responsible adult present/failing to meet adult to child ratios
- Exceeding level of competence and/or qualification
- Employing practices that are inappropriate for the stage of psychological and physical development of the individual
- Excessive training or competition

Practices that may be carried out with the best intentions but that fall into a category of behaviours that are used by people who sexually abuse children to 'groom' their victim:

Examples include:

- Offering to give a child a lift home alone
- Giving a child gifts
- Having unnecessary physical contact with young people e.g. excessive handling/supporting, cuddling, kissing, 'friendly' taps etc.
- Socialising/having friendships with young people outside training

Practices that are known to be significant risk factors in cases of abuse and can never be condoned:

Examples include:

- Taking children to your home or other secluded place unaccompanied by others
- Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games
- Sharing a room with a child
- Allowing or engaging in any form of inappropriate touching
- Making sexually suggestive remarks

- Reducing a child to tears as a form of control
- Allowing children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Allowing allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Carrying out personal care for a child that the child can do unaided
- Departing from the premises without first supervising the safe dispersal of the children
- Abusing a privileged position of power or trust
- Resorting to bullying tactics or verbal abuse
- Causing a participant to lose self-esteem by embarrassing, humiliating or undermining the individual
- Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from other adults
- It is essential that everyone challenges poor practice, even where there is a belief that the motives of an individual are well meaning and **failure to challenge poor practice can lead to an environment where abuse is more likely to remain**
- Clubs are expected to deal with poor practice internally. Guidance on how to do this can be found in **toolbox section 18**.