

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

You should always:

Treat all players and children with respect and dignity befitting of their age, watch your language, tone of voice and where you put your body.

You should never:

Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games including horseplay

Allow or engage in inappropriate or intrusive touching of any kind

Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged

Make sexually suggestive comments to a child even in fun

Let allegations a child makes go unchallenged or unrecorded, always act.

Invade the privacy of children when they are changing, showering or going to the toilet.

You should avoid:

Doing things of personal nature that children can do for themselves

Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others

Taking children alone on car journeys, however short

Taking children to your home

Where these situations are unavoidable, first seek parental consent where possible. If unable to speak to the parents, always inform them of the circumstances as soon as practicable.

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE:

Understand that this may be the only time the child has built up courage to tell someone what has happened:

Stop what you are doing

- Stay calm and re-assuring
- Listen to what they tell you, tell them that whatever the circumstances that they are not to blame
- Do not react in a way that may add to the child's distress e.g. anger or shock
- Explain that you cannot promise to keep what the child tells you a secret, you may have to tell someone else
- Do not question the child in depth, do not ask leading questions
- Only ask questions to establish exactly what was done and who did it
- Tell the child that you are pleased that they decided to tell someone and that they are absolutely right to do so
- Let the child know you understand how difficult it is to talk about such experiences
- Inform the team manager (unless implicated)
- Contact the club Child Protection Officer without delay
- Do not contact the parents until you have received advice
- Make an accurate record of the time and date and exactly what was said