



JUNIOR TOUCH
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Junior Touch Championships ABUSE AND POOR PRACTICE

In our World, everyone has the right to be safe

Foreword

This document is the Protecting Young People Abuse and Poor Practice Guidance for the Junior Touch Championships. It shall be followed by all members of the organisation, its event participants, event participating National Touch Associations and spectators. It shall be promoted by those in positions of leadership.

Appendices

This document must be read in conjunction with:

1. JTC Protecting Young People Policy
2. JTC Protecting Young People Guidance
3. JTC Protecting Young People Procedures
4. JTC Protecting Young People Recognising Abuse

Poor Practice

Poor practice

There are some behaviours or practices that would be considered poor practice and although highly unacceptable within the sport, would not be fully encapsulated by the definitions of abuse. Nevertheless, they must always be reported, addressed and action taken to prevent reoccurrence.

In some cases, there is a fine line between poor practice and abuse and it may be important to seek guidance from Social Services and/or the Police before a concern is treated as poor practice. If, following consideration by senior officials and, if appropriate, following consultation with statutory authorities and the JTC Trust, a concern is deemed to be a matter of poor practice rather than abuse, a suitable course of remedial action should be agreed. Although it is often possible to resolve poor practice through guidance, mentoring and additional training, (particularly where the individual is willing to accept their conduct was inappropriate), poor practice concerns need to be managed as a disciplinary matter by invoking the appropriate policy and procedures.

Practices never to be sanctioned

The following practices are known to be significant risk factors in cases of abuse and can never to be condoned:

- 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 may sometimes be necessary for adults to do things of a personal nature for children, particularly if they are young or are disabled. This would include tasks such as removing outer layers of clothing, tying up hair etc. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and (preferably written) consent of parents and the children involved. There is a need to be responsive to a person's reactions. If a person is fully dependent on you, talk with him/her about what you are doing and give choices where possible. This is particularly so if you are involved in a task that involves physical contact. Avoid taking on the responsibility for tasks for which you are not appropriately trained.

Some children, particularly children with learning disabilities or serious physical disabilities may require some assistance with using toilet facilities. In some situations, this may lead to increased vulnerability both for the child and the person providing the care, particularly as some children with learning disabilities can find it difficult to set and maintain physical boundaries. Therefore, where a child requires this type of care, a parent/carer or someone trained in the

provision of intimate care must be on hand to address these needs.

Incidents that must be reported/recorded

In the event that any of the following incidents occur, they should be reported immediately to the appropriate welfare officer, who must make a record of the incident and ensure the parents of the child are informed:

- If you accidentally hurt a child
- If a child seems distressed in any manner

- If a child appears to be sexually aroused by your actions
- If a child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done.

It is essential that everyone challenges poor practice, even where there is a belief that the motives of an individual are well meaning. Failure to challenge poor practice can lead to an environment where abuse is more likely to remain unnoticed.