

BARNHAM TROJANS FOOTBALL CLUB

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Club Welfare Officer. Sarah Edwards.

Barnham Trojans FC achieved their Football Association Charter Standard Club status and as such has a Safeguarding Children Policy.

The Responsible Football Coach Code of Conduct

1. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
2. Coaches must place the wellbeing and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the development of performance
3. Coaches must adhere to all guidelines laid down by the Rules of the Football Association
4. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect
5. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit and reward
6. Coaches must encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour
7. Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players
8. Coaches should, at the outset, clarify with the player (and, where appropriate, their parents) Exactly what is expected of them and what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
9. Coaches must co-operate with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of players.
10. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance

ANY BREACH OF THE PROVISION(S) OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT BY A COACH SHALL CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF THE RULES OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND SHALL BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROCEDURES AS SET OUT IN THE RULES OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Recommendations for persons involved with the treatment of children and young people in football.

The following is a set of guidelines for any person involved with the treatment (first aid, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and management and treatment of injuries generally) of children in football as a guide to best practice.

1. It is recommended that no child or young person should be treated in any way in a situation where the child or young person is on his/her own in a treatment room with the door closed.
2. It is strongly recommended that all treatment procedures should be “open” i.e. the door remains open, parents/guardians are invited in to observe treatment procedure. Where strict medical confidentiality is to be observed then the parents or guardians of the child or young person should be invited to attend

- 3 It is recommended that if treating an area of the body which is potentially embarrassing to a Child or young person (i.e. the groin) a suitable consenting adult acting as chaperone should be present.
- 4 It is important to maintain medical confidentiality and patient dignity always
- 5 Prior to medical treatment being carried out on a child or young person parental/guardian consent in the written form must be sought where appropriate
- 6 It is recommended that all treatment procedures are explained fully to the child or young Person and **verbal consent** is given before they are carried out

General Guidelines in the care of Children and Young people

It is possible to reduce situations in which abuse can occur and help to protect staff/volunteers by promoting good practice. The following are more specific examples of care which should be taken when working within a sports context

- * Always be public and open when working with children or young people. Avoid situations where a coach and individual child or young persons are completely unobserved.
- * Always treat players in an open environment or, if treatment is required within a closed area ensure parents/carers are aware of this.
- * Where appropriate, parents/carers should take the responsibility for their children or young people in the changing rooms. If groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms always ensure coaches work in pairs.
- * Where there are mixed teams away from home they should always be accompanied by a male and female coach/official.
- * When working with children or young players of the opposite sex coaches must agree with parents/carers when, or if, it is appropriate to enter the changing area. It may be prudent to set a time limit, i.e. 10 minutes before a game, when the coach could enter the room accompanied by parent/carer, at least one of which must be of the opposite sex.

If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable they should only occur with the knowledge and consent of someone in charge in the organisation and /or the child's/young person's parent.

Adults should never

- * Allow or engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- * Share a bedroom with a child or young person.
- * Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- * Allow children or young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- * Make sexually suggestive comments to a child or young person, even in fun.
- * Allow allegations made by a child or young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- * Do things of a personal nature for children or young people they can do for themselves.

- * Invite or allow children or young people to stay with you at your home unsupervised.

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It may be necessary for staff or volunteers to do things of a personal nature for children or young people, particularly if they are very young or have a disability. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and prior consent of parents/carers and the children or young people involved. There is a need to be responsive to a child's or young person's reactions – if a child or young person is fully dependant upon you, talk with him/her about what you are doing and give choices where possible. This is particularly so if you are involved in dressing or undressing any outer clothing, or where there is physical contact or lifting or assisting a child/young person to carry out particular activities.

If you accidentally hurt a child/young person, he/she seems distressed in any manner, appears to have been sexually aroused by your actions, or misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done, report any such incident as soon as possible to another colleague and make a brief note of it. Parents or carers should be informed of the incident. Your Club Welfare Officer should also be immediately informed of any such incident.