

Falkland Islands Hockey Association

Safeguarding Children Policy



Policy statement

This Safeguarding Children Policy should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding Children Policy Statement which makes it clear to all parties (coaches, volunteers, parents and children) what actions the Association will take to keep children safe.

Definitions

Child refers to any person under the age of 18

Safeguarding refers to the process of protecting children (and adults) to provide safe and effective care. This includes all procedures designed to prevent harm to a child.

Child Protection is part of the safeguarding process, protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes the child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

Abuse

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. It commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and represents an abuse of power or a breach of trust. Abuse can happen to a child regardless of their age, gender, race or ability.

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Children can be abused by adults, either male or female, or by other children.

Any allegations or suspicions of abuse, poor practice or bullying will be responded to and reported in line with the Falkland Islands Hockey Association's reporting procedures.

There are 4 main types of abuse: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. Children and young people can also be harmed through poor practice and bullying within a sport setting.

Here, we look in detail at the types of abuse and some signs to look out for if you're concerned about abuse within a sports setting.

Neglect

This is when adults consistently or repeatedly fail to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs which could result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development e.g. failure to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing; failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger; or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include refusal to give love, affection and attention.

Neglect in sport could include a coach or supervisor repeatedly failing to ensure children are safe, exposing them to undue cold, heat or extreme weather conditions without ensuring adequate clothing or hydration; exposing them to unnecessary risk of injury e.g. by ignoring safe practice guidelines, failing to ensure the use of safety equipment, or by requiring young people to participate when injured or unwell.

Physical abuse

When someone physically hurts or injures children by hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, biting, scalding, suffocating, drowning or otherwise causing harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child whom they are looking after e.g. Fabricated Illness or Injury.

Physical abuse in sport may be when the nature and intensity of training or competition exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body; where coaches encourage the use of drugs or harmful substances to enhance performance or delay puberty; if athletes are required to participate when injured; or when sanctions used by coaches imposed involve inflicting pain.

Sexual abuse

This is where children and young people are abused by adults (both male and female) or other children who use them to meet their own sexual needs. This could include full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, anal intercourse, kissing and sexual fondling. Showing children pornographic material (books, videos, pictures) or taking pornographic images of them are also forms of sexual abuse.

Sexual abusers groom children, protective adults and clubs in order to create opportunities to abuse and reduce the likelihood of being reported.

In sport, coaching techniques which involve physical contact with children can create situations where sexual abuse can be disguised and may therefore go unnoticed. The power and authority of, or dependence on, the coach if misused, may also lead to abusive situations developing. Contacts made within sport and pursued e.g. through texts, Facebook or Twitter have been used to groom children for abuse.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children or even the over protection of a child. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger by being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted which may make the child very nervous and withdrawn. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child.

Emotional abuse in sport may occur if children are subjected to constant criticism, name-calling, sarcasm, bullying, racism or pressure to perform to unrealistically high expectations; or when their value or worth is dependent on sporting success or achievement.

Poor practice in sport

Poor practice is behaviour of an individual in a position of responsibility which falls below the Falkland Islands Hockey Association's required standard. Poor practice may not be immediately dangerous or intentionally harmful to a child, but is likely to set a poor example.

Poor practice is potentially damaging to the individual, the Association and to children who experience it. For example, coaching with alcohol on the breath, smoking, swearing in front of children, or not paying due care and attention to participants all constitute poor practice.

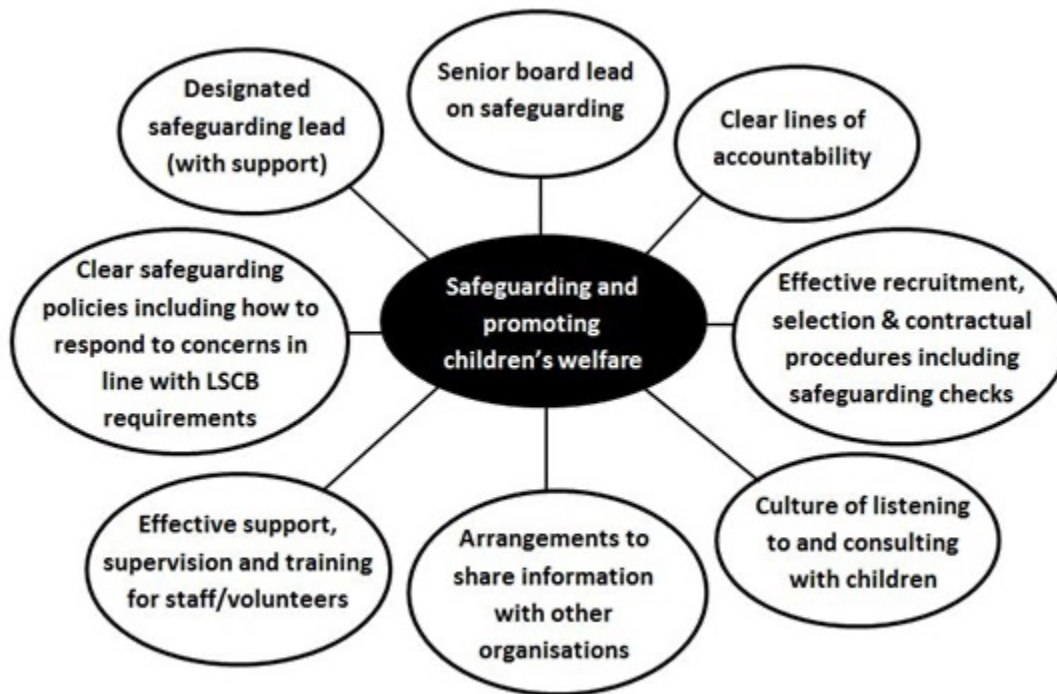
Poor practice can sometimes lead to, or create, an environment conducive to more serious abuse. It may also lead to suspicions about the individual's motivation, even where no harm is intended. For example, if a coach is giving one child too much attention, regularly transports children in their car, or encourages physical contact with children without obvious justification.

Bullying

Bullying by peers can occur whenever children and young people come together, including within sport situations. Bullying can take many forms, and is harmful to the victim. It may be physical such as hitting; online or cyber such as abusive messages, comments or images on social media; involve damage or theft of property; based on someone's gender, ethnicity, sexuality or disability; or about their sporting ability.

Safeguarding requirements for any club or organisation

Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2015; PDF) states that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Working Together outlines the duties of all organisations that work with children. These are summarised in the diagram below.



Adapted by the CPSU from 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (HM Government, 2015) © Crown copyright 2015

The **Safeguarding Standards** are based on these duties. And while the Working Together guidance is only specific to England, the principles are reflected by guidance and standards in the Falkland Islands.

Responding to and reporting concerns

It is not the responsibility of anyone working in the Falkland Islands Hockey Association to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns by reporting these to the appropriate officer or the appropriate authorities.

The Falkland Islands Hockey Association will appoint a designated Lead Safeguarding Officer.

This person will:

- coordinate concerns about children and young people using the Behaviour Incident Reporting Form or the Child Protection Concern Form
- support coaches and others working for the Association
- put safeguards in place
- act on reports of concerns

All concerns about a child should be reported to the Lead Safeguarding Officer. Where concerns are about child abuse, this may lead to a referral to children's services who may involve the police. If concerns are about poor practice, the Falkland Islands Hockey Association's committee will appoint 3 non-connected committee members to decide on any course of action.

What are you required to do?

The following illustrates the processes to use when there are concerns about possible abuse of a child or young person. You may not need to follow every part of the process if the concern is resolved at an earlier stage.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the police.

It's important to remember that the welfare of the child is of paramount concern. However, it is not up to you to decide whether or not a child has been abused, but to report concerns appropriately.

Support is available should you need it, through the Falkland Islands Hockey Association, Social Services, ChildLine (Tel. 28888) as well as directly from the online Child Protection in Sport Unit.

If you have concerns about the welfare of a child

Is the child in immediate danger or are they injured?

- if yes, contact the emergency services

If the child is not in immediate danger you must report the concern to the Lead Safeguarding Officer

- You can report your concern to Social Services 27296 or 28100 out of hours
- You can report your concern to the Royal Falkland Islands Police on 28100

Ensure you keep a written record of your concern and how you reported it. Follow up concerns with the Lead Safeguarding Officer if you do not hear back from them.

Managing concerns

The following table will support the Falkland Islands Hockey Association in managing the concerns and understanding the role of statutory agencies (the police and children's social services) when the concerns mean that their involvement is required.

Most cases will be managed at the first stage and will not require a referral to other agencies. However, it's important to ensure that you have robust procedures that keep children at their heart, and know when and how to report concerns externally.

	Falkland Islands Hockey Association	Statutory services
Initial concern received	Organisational procedures followed: Poor practice: internal disciplinary process initiated. Possible abuse: everything that follows in this table below.	Designated Officer (previously LADO) involvement
Decision about	Information gathering followed by referral to or consultation with police/social care if required.	1. Info Gathering

action		2. Investigation 3. Assessment Designated Officer (previously LADO) involvement.
Action planning with other agencies	Multi agency strategy meeting	
Further enquiries/ investigations	Internal investigations/assessment undertaken in consultation with, or at conclusion of investigation by, statutory agencies. Complex risk assessment.	Follow up assessment/actions.
Outcome of investigations/ actions	Disciplinary proceedings. DBS referral.	Child protection conference (multi agency). Criminal proceedings.
Appeal	Appeal procedures. External referral.	Statutory appeal procedures.

Recording

It is important that all concerns are recorded – including information about:

- the concern
- how it was responded to
- where it was reported to
- and what the outcome of this report was

The Falkland Islands Hockey Association’s Child Protection Concern Form will be used.

Information gathered and generated following an incident and any subsequent investigation is of a sensitive nature and should be stored very carefully with restricted access.

Codes of conduct

Codes of conduct are available for

- Coaching Staff and Volunteers

to ensure that all those involved in the association are clear on what behaviour is expected and what will not be tolerated.

Training

Training plays an important role in equipping staff and volunteers to do their job safely and effectively. Safeguarding training will be made available to all coaches and volunteers depending on the person's role.

Whistleblowing

It's important that people within the Club have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they're unhappy with anything.

Whistleblowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrongdoing within their sports organisation.

The NSPCC has a [whistleblowing advice line](#) to support professionals who have concerns about how child protection issues are being handled in their own or another organisation. You can call 28888 and speak to someone confidentially in the UK.

Complaints

In order to ensure that we develop an open culture where children and staff feel able to express any concerns, it's important that we have a procedure for dealing with complaints from a child, worker, volunteer, parent or carer.

Complaints should be made to the Chair who will ensure the provision of support and advocacy for the people involved.