



# Blackpool Cricket Club

## Child Protection Policy (3 pages)

Every child or young person, defined as any person under the age of 18, who plays or participates in cricket should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult in cricket.

Blackpool Cricket Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all the children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is determined to meet its obligation to ensure that those club and organisations providing cricket opportunities for children and young people do so to the highest possible standard of care.

These procedures apply to any one in cricket whether in paid or voluntary capacity; for example, volunteers in clubs, umpires, club officials, cricket coaches, helpers and medial staff.

Blackpool Cricket Club will consider, having taken advice, whether anyone who has a previous criminal conviction or caution for offences related to the abuse of children or young people, violence or any sexual offences should be excluded from working with children and young people. This position is reinforced by UK legislation and guidance.

### Legal and Procedural Framework

The practices and procedures based on the principles contained within UK and International legislation and government guidance have been designed to complement local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures and take the following into consideration:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Protection of Children Act 1999
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Caring for the young and vulnerable – Home Office guidance for preventing the abuse of trust 1999
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Human Rights Act 1998

### ***Non-action is not an option in Child Protection.***

#### **1. Concerns about poor practice and possible abuse within cricket settings.**

Child abuse can and does occur outside the family setting. Although it is a sensitive and difficult issue, child abuse has occurred within sport and may occur within other settings e.g. other social activities. Recent inquiries indicate that the abuse that takes place within a public setting is rarely a one-off event. It is crucial that those involved in cricket are aware of this possibility and that all allegations are treated seriously, and appropriate action taken.

Allegations may also relate to poor practice where an adult's or peer's behaviour is inappropriate and may be causing concern to a young person. Poor practice includes any behaviour which contravenes existing Codes of Conduct, infringes an individual's rights and/or is a failure to fulfil the highest standards of care. Poor practice is unacceptable in cricket and will be treated seriously and appropriate action taken.



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## 2. Action to take if a child or young person informs you directly that he/she is concerned about someone's behaviour towards them or that they are being abused at home or within some other setting (outside of cricket).

If this happens you should:

- React calmly so as not to frighten the child or young person.
- Tell the child or young person he/she is not to blame and that they were right to let you know.
- Take what the child or young person says seriously.
- Ensure the safety of the child or young person. If the child or young person needs immediate medical treatment, take them to the hospital or call an ambulance. Inform the doctors of the concerns and ensure that they are aware that this is a Child Protection issue.
- Avoid leading the child or young person and keep any questions to the absolute minimum necessary to ensure a clear understanding of what has been said.
- Reassure the child or young person but do not make promises of confidentiality or outcome which might not be feasible in the light of subsequent developments.
- Parents or carers should be contacted only after advice from the Social Services.
- Make a full record of what has been said, heard and/or seen as soon as possible.
- Report the concerns to the person in charge or designated person immediately, unless the concern is about the person in charge (see below).
- The person in charge should be clearly identified in every cricket setting e.g. a designated person at the club, a team manager, a senior coach or child protection officer. If the person in charge is not available or the concern is about the person in charge, then report your concerns directly to the Social Services or the Police. These will advise you whether a formal referral to Social Services is necessary and what further action you might need to take. If you are advised to make a formal referral, make it clear to Social Services or the Police that this is a Child Protection referral.
- Confidentiality should be maintained on a strictly need to know basis and relevant documents stored in a secure location.
- Please remember that it can be more difficult for some children to disclose abuse than for others. Children from ethnic minorities may have regularly experienced racism which may lead them to believe that those in authority roles do not really care about their well being.
- Disabled children and vulnerable adults will have to overcome additional barriers before feeling they can disclose abuse. They may rely on the abuser for their daily care and do not know of alternative sources of care or residence. The abuse may be the only attention/affection they have experienced. There may be communication difficulties and they will almost certainly have to overcome prejudices which block our willingness to believe they may be abused or to use their medical condition to explain away indicators which in an able-bodied child would concern us.
- These groups of people need us to be extra vigilant and to give extra thought as to how we will respond, if necessary.



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### **3. Action to take if you become aware, through your own observations or through a third party, of possible abuse occurring within a cricket setting, at home or within some other setting (outside of cricket).**

If this happens you should:

- Ensure the safety of the child or young person. If the child or young person needs immediate medical treatment take the child to the hospital or call an ambulance. Inform the doctors of your concerns and ensure that they are aware that this is a Child Protection issue.
- Make a full record of what has been said, heard and/or seen as soon as possible.
- Parents and carers should be contacted only after advice from Social Services.
- Report the concerns to the person in charge immediately, unless the concerns are about the person in charge.
- The person in charge may seek advice from the NSPCC Child Protection 24-hour Helpline (0808 800 5000), Social Services or the Police.
- If the person in charge is not available or the concerns relate to the person in charge, refer your concerns to Social Services or the Police. These agencies will advise you whether a formal referral to Social Services is necessary and what further action you might need to take. If you are advised to make a referral you should make it clear to the Social Services or the Police that this is a Child Protection referral.
- Confidentiality should be maintained on a strictly need to know basis and relevant documents stored in a secure location.

### **4. Recording of information, suspicions or concerns.**

Information passed to the Social Services Department or the Police must be as helpful as possible, and it may be used in any subsequent legal action, hence the necessity for making a detailed record. The report should contain:

- The child's or young person's name, address and date of birth.
- The nature of the allegation.
- A description of any visible bruising or other injuries.
- The child's or young person's account, in their own words if possible, of what has happened and how any bruising or other injuries occurred.
- Any observations that have been made to you.
- Any dates, times, locations or other relevant information.
- A clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay.
- Your knowledge of and relationship to the child or young person.

Whenever possible referrals to Social Services should be confirmed in writing within 24 hours. Keep a record of the name and designation of the Social Services member of staff or Police Officer to whom concerns were passed and record the date and the time of the call, in case any follow up is needed.