

Brockworth Albion Football Club

*(Members of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior, Stroud and Cheltenham League's)
Incorporating Brockworth Albion Youth Football Club*



Child Protection Policy

You should always:

1. 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:

2. Engage in rough, physical or sexual provocative games including horseplay.
3. Allow or engage in inappropriate or intrusive touching of any kind.
4. Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
5. Make sexually suggestive comments to a child even in fun.
6. Let allegations a child makes go unchallenged or unrecorded, always act.
7. Invade the privacy of children when they are changing, showering or going to the toilet.

You should avoid:

8. Doing things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves. E.g. help with changing.
9. Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.
10. Taking children alone on car journeys, however short.
11. Taking children to your home.
12. Where these situations are unavoidable, first seek parental consent where possible.
13. If unable to speak to the parents, always inform them of the circumstances as soon as practicable.

Forms of abuse:

Sexual

14. Boys and girls can be sexually abused.
15. Abuse can include:
16. Full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, fondling.
17. Showing children pornographic books or videos or taking pornographic photographs or videos.

Physical

18. Physical injuries to children by hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting or burning.

Secretary
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Ms Kerry Hone
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19. In football situations, as with all sport, physical abuse may occur when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's body.

Neglect

20. Where adults fail to meet a child's basic physical needs. E.g. food, warmth and clothing.
21. Constantly leaving children alone and unsupervised.
22. Fail or refuse to give children love, affection or attention.

Emotional

23. Persistent lack of love or affection.
24. Children frequently being shouted at or being taunted.
25. Over protection leading to poor social skills.
26. Emotional abuse in football may include situations where parents or coaches subject children to constant criticism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations.

What to look for:

27. Pain, itching, bruising or bleeding to genital area.
28. Stomach pains.
29. Discomfort when walking.
30. Unexplained sources of money.
31. Inappropriate sexual drawings/language/behaviour.
32. Aggressive, withdrawn or fear of one person.
33. Unexplained or untreated injuries
34. Injuries on unlikely or unusual parts of the body.
35. Cigarette burns, bites or belt marks, scalds.
36. Fear of parents being contacted, going home or receiving medical advice.
37. Flinching when touched.
38. Refusal to discuss injury.
39. Covering arms or legs.
40. Poor personal hygiene.
41. Constantly hungry.
42. Inappropriate clothing or dress
43. Constantly tired.
44. Lonely, no friends.
45. Under weight.
46. No parental support or interest.
47. Dishevelled appearance.

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48. Over reaction to mistakes.
49. Sudden speech disorders.
50. Extremes of emotions.
51. Self-mutation.

There may not be any signs you may just feel that something is wrong. If you are worried, it is not your responsibility to decide if it is abuse, but **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT ON YOUR CONCERNS AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.**

What to do if a child discloses abuse:

52. Understand that this may be the only time the child has built up courage to tell someone what has happened.
53. Stop what you are doing and respect the child's privacy.
54. Stay calm and re-assuring.
55. Listen to what they tell you; tell them that whatever the circumstances they are not to blame.
56. Do not react in a way that may add to the child's distress e.g. anger or shock.
57. Explain that you cannot promise to keep what the child tells you a secret; you may have to tell someone else.
58. Do not question the child in depth; do not ask leading questions, i.e. questions that need a "yes" or "no" answer.
59. Only ask questions to establish exactly what was done and who did it.
60. Tell the child that you are pleased they decided to tell someone and they are absolutely right to do so.
61. Let the child know that you understand how difficult it is to talk about such experiences.
62. Contact the Brockworth Albion F.C. Child Protection Officer without delay.
63. Do not contact parents until you have received advice from B.A.F.C Child Protection officer or contact the NSPCC Child protection helpline which is open 24hours a day and 7 days a week. Calls are free unless you are calling from a mobile. NSCC Free Helpline 0800 800 5000 Free Text Helpline 0800 056 0566
64. Make an accurate record of the time and date and exactly what was said.

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Child Protection Policy Statement

Brockworth Albion are committed to creating and preserving the safest possible environment for children to play football.

Brockworth Albion accept children's welfare is paramount and all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender or religious belief, have the right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

On becoming a member of Brockworth Albion, players, spectators, officials, friends and family agree to abide by the details and aims set out in this policy.

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