Safeguarding Children Policy

BHSports believe that every child has the right to be completely secure from both the fear and the reality of abuse. We are committed to safeguarding all the children in our care from abusive behaviour and harm. BHSports will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur. Our child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

All coaches will report to the Lead Coach, Bertie Hopkin for any concern.

Please be aware that staff members have an obligation to report suspected child abuse, neglect or signs of immobile infant bruising in accordance with the LSCB and 'working together to safeguard children' documentation.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

Forms of Child Abuse & Neglect

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect a child from harm. The following are some signs often associated with particular types of child abuse and neglect. These types of abuse are more often found in combination than alone.

Emotional abuse
Emotional abuse involves persistent or severe emotional ill treatment causing, or likely to cause, severe adverse effects on the emotional stability of a child. Such behaviour may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate, or making them feel unnecessarily frightened or vulnerable.

Physical Abuse
This involves hitting, shaking, throwing, burning, suffocating or any other physical harm. Deliberately causing a child's ill health also constitutes physical abuse.
Sexual Abuse
This involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. Showing children pornographic materials, sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways also constitutes sexual abuse.

Neglect
Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical, emotional or psychological needs, such as is likely to have a severe impact on their health, development or emotional stability. Neglect may involve failing to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing for a child, or failing to adequately protect them from physical harm or ill health Neglect can also manifest itself in a failure to meet the basic emotional needs of a child.

Disclosure

Where a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

- Reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to talk to a member of staff.
- Listen to the child but not question them.
- Give reassurance that the staff member will take action.
- Record the incident and what the child has said as soon as possible.
- Report the increment to the Lead Coach.
- Contact the Local Safeguarding Children Board if deemed necessary.

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the incident straightaway. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that the BHSports are obligated to and the incident will be logged accordingly

Logging an Incident

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure will be recorded as soon as possible after the event. The record should include:

- Date of the disclosure or of the incident causing concern.
- Date and time at which the record was made.
- Name and date of birth of the child involved.

- A factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, it is essential to use the child's own words.
- Name, signature and job title of the person making the record.

The record will be given to the Lead Coach who will decide whether they need to contact Social Care or make a referral.

Allegations Against Staff

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against a member of staff:

- The allegation will be recorded. Any witnesses to the incident should sign and date the entry to confirm it.
- The allegation must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The LADO will advise if other agencies (eg police) should be informed, and BHSports will act upon the advice.
- Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation.

Promoting Awareness

BHSports promotes awareness among its coaches for child abuse issues through staff briefings at the start of every camp. BHSports will ensure that:

- The Lead Coach is at every camp/event.
- The Lead Coach will keep its coaches up to date with any changes in child protection policies
- Safe recruitment practices are followed for all staff.
- All staff has a copy of the Safeguarding Children Policy, understands its contents and is vigilant to signs of abuse or neglect.
- All staff are aware of their statutory requirements with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse.

Letter of Assurance

BHSports will provide the camp venue a Letter of Assurance to confirm that BHSports coaching staff have the following:

- Evidence of right to work in the UK.
- References have been contacted if applicable.
- Enhanced DBS checks have been completed.

- Proof of address has been checked.
- Safeguarding training has been checked.
- ID check has been completed.
- Medical fitness has been checked.
- Disqualification checks have been undertaken.

Print Name:

Signed:

Date: