



Saffron Walden Cricket Club (the “Club”): Child Welfare Policy



Saffron Walden Cricket Club fully endorses the “Safe Hands: Welfare of Young People in Cricket” policy (2013 and subsequent updates) of the England & Wales Cricket Board. This policy should be read in conjunction with that.

Adults working with children are a common feature of all successful clubs. It is therefore important that adults are aware of their responsibilities. In essence, common sense is the guiding principle and adults should act as any reasonable parent would do in similar circumstances.

The underlying principles that should be noted by all associated with the Club are that:

- a. The welfare of the child is paramount
- b. All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse
- c. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, appropriately and objectively
- d. All children have the right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect
- e. All coaches have recourse against any allegation made against them
- f. Individual feelings and views shall be respected as will the individual differences that make us special.

The Club considers parents to be vital partners in the future success of the club. It also recognises that the social services department has statutory responsibility to ensure the welfare of children and that the local Area Child Protection Committee is also an important partner when dealing with cases of alleged or actual abuse.

Dealing with abuse

Any adult who suspects abuse, or has been given information regarding suspected abuse, is obliged to report it to the Club’s Child Welfare Officer (David Barrs). The person in receipt of the report must ensure that appropriate advice is sought from the local Social Services Department or the NSPCC. It is not the responsibility of those in charge to decide if abuse has taken place, but they are obliged to report any concerns they may have.

The most difficult decision at the initial stage is to decide whether or not to discuss the matter with parents/carers in order to seek clarification. This should always be done unless there is deemed to be a good reason not to.

If a child indicates that he/she is being abused, the adult should react calmly, reassure the child that they are not to blame, take seriously what is said and keep to an absolute minimum the questions that are asked. Promises of confidentiality should not be given and a full record of what has been said and/or observed should be made as soon as possible. The child may wish a third party to be present before they will offer any information. However, a third party should not be allowed to speak for the child or subsequently report the meeting to anyone else.

Club members should be made aware that abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional or the result of neglect. The Club will challenge bullying including persistent name-calling, ridicule, humiliation, graffiti, gestures, sexual comments, unwanted physical contact, pushing, kicking, spitting, hitting or ignoring.

In practice.

Reference should be made to the Safe Hands Policy. The following is a selection of good practice principles.

1. All volunteers should be properly vetted and should complete a simple application form including a Self-Disclosure statement. References should be sought for new volunteers.
2. The Club should maintain accurate records of contact details and medical information which are readily available to those in charge of teams.
3. Adults should not take children other than their own alone on car journeys or take them to their homes.
4. Adults should not spend excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.
5. Adults should not engage in rough, physically or sexually provocative games including horseplay, neither should they share a room, engage in any form of inappropriate touching or make sexually suggestive comments, even in fun.
6. Inappropriate language by children should always be challenged.
7. Adults should never do things for children of a personal nature which they can do for themselves.
8. Where there are mixed teams away from home, the team should be accompanied by a male and a female member of staff.

9. Coaches should ensure that arrangements are in place to ensure that children are returned home in the presence of an appropriate adult or that appropriate arrangements have been made.

10. Appropriate contact details for all coaches should be available to parents/carers

11. The Club should have in place a clearly established complaints procedure.

12. Adults should always be publicly open in their dealings with children and situations where a coach/adult is working on their own with a child should never be completely unobserved.

13. Adults should not change/shower at the same time as young people although parents are able to supervise their children if they so wish. Young players should not be pressurised to have showers.

14. The Club welcomes the use of photography. Those who wish to take photographs should ask permission of team managers and be aware that some players do not wish to have their photographs taken. They may be challenged if they attempt to take photographs without permission from a Club representative.

15. If a child is accidentally hurt or if the actions of an adult are likely to be misconstrued, then the adult should report the matter immediately to a senior member of the Club and make a brief written note of the incident. Where appropriate parents/carers should also be informed.

Some useful contacts

Essex Social Care Emergency Duty Desk

tel: 0845 606 1212, text 01245 492154, fax 01245 434700

Saffron Walden Cricket Club Welfare Officer

David Barrs - mobile 07760 484390

Saffron Walden Cricket Club Assistant Child Welfare Officer

Currently vacant

Childline - 0800 1111

Reviewed March 2016