



**Boleh Safeguarding Children Policy
14th April 2022**

Information Page

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General Email address: projectboleh@gmail.com

Safeguarding Coordinator Name: Caroline Middleton

Safeguarding Coordinator Contact Telephone / Email:

cemiddleton@hotmail.com

07779698963

Charity Number: 1175954

If you are concerned that someone is not following the Code of Conduct or the policies and procedures details in this document, you should inform your Safeguarding Officer or the person in charge of the activity.

The Safeguarding Officer Caroline Middleton should be notified of all relevant concerns, allegations or complaints: email:

cemiddleton@hotmail.com telephone: 07779698963

Signed

Safeguarding Officer CE MIDDLETON

Chairman HKW MIDDLETON

Dated 14th April 2022



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Boleh Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Statement

As defined by the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 for the purposes of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. The policy applies to all Boleh Trust employees, contractors and volunteers.

The Boleh Trust is committed to safeguarding, from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying, children taking part in its activities. We recognise that the safety, welfare and needs of the child are paramount and that all children, irrespective of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual or gender identity or social status, have a right to protection from discrimination and abuse.

The Boleh Trust recognizes the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child, children should have an equal right to protection as adults. and have as our starting point as a definition of abuse, Article 19:

- 1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.*
- 2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.*

The Boleh Trust takes all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, children participating in activities involving the Boleh Trust do so in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The Boleh Trust follows the rigorous practices and safeguarding procedures adopted Royal Yachting Association hereafter RYA

The Boleh Trust actively seeks to:

- Create a safe and welcoming environment, both on and off the water, where children can have fun and develop their skills and confidence.
- Run events to the highest possible safety standards.
- Treat all children with respect and celebrate their achievements.

The Boleh Trust:

- Recognizes that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work with children.
- Carefully recruits and selects all employees, contractors and volunteers in roles involving close contact with children and provides them with appropriate information and training.
- Responds swiftly and appropriately to all complaints and concerns about poor practice or suspected or actual child abuse.
- Reviews safeguarding procedures and practices in the light of experience or to take account of legislative, social or technological changes.
- Communicates changes and shares good practice
- Implementing the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, Equality act 2010 and other relevant legislation,
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.



Boleh Safeguarding Children Policy 2022

It is the policy of Boleh Trust that all participants, officials, parents and volunteers show respect and understanding for each other, treat everyone equally within the context of the sport. The aim is for all participants to enjoy their sailing and related activities.

Abusive language, swearing, intimidation, aggressive behaviour or lack of respect for others and their property will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action.

Participants

- Listen to and accept what you are asked to do to improve your performance and keep you safe
- Respect other participants, coaches, instructors, officials and volunteers
- Abide by the rules and play fairly
- Do your best at all times
- Never bully others either in person, by phone, by text or online
- Take care of all property belonging to other participants, The Boleh Trust or its members

Parents

- Support your child's involvement and help them enjoy their sailing and related activities
- Never force your child to take part in sailing or related activities
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes
- Encourage and guide your child to accept responsibility for their own conduct and performance
- Accept officials' judgments and recognise good performance by all participants
- Use established procedures where there is a genuine concern or dispute
- Inform The Boleh Trust of relevant medical information
- Ensure that your child wears suitable clothing and has appropriate food and drink
- Provide contact details and be available when required
- Take responsibility for your child's safety and conduct

Volunteers

- Consider the welfare and safety of participants
- Encourage participants to value their performance
- Ensure that all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part
- Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect
- Work in an open environment
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with young people
- Be an excellent role model and display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Communicate clearly with parents and participants
- Be aware of any relevant medical information
- Follow Boleh Trust guidelines and policies
- Do not drink alcohol or smoke when working directly with young people



Boleh Trust: Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Policy Statement

The Boleh Trust is committed to safeguarding, from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying, children taking part in its activities. We recognise that the safety, welfare and needs of the child are paramount and that all children, irrespective of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual or gender identity or social status, have a right to protection from discrimination and abuse.

As an organisation working with children, young people and adults with care and support needs we wish to operate and promote good working practice. This will enable workers to run activities safely, develop good relationships and minimise the risk of false or unfounded accusation.

For the purposes of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. All volunteers, contractors and employees should be aware of the policy.

For the purposes of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. All volunteers should be aware of the policy.

Safeguarding Officer

The Safeguarding Officer is:
Caroline Middleton
Email: cemiddleton@hotmail.com
Telephone: 07779698963

For the purposes of this policy the term Safeguarding Officer also encompasses Child Protection Officer and Welfare Officer.

Staff and Volunteers

All staff and volunteers whose role brings them into regular contact with young people will:

- Be expected to provide references and followed up where appropriate.
- Those supervising young people will also be asked to apply for an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure, with Barred List check if appropriate.
- Undertake safeguarding training

- Qualifications where relevant have been verified
- Agree to the volunteer's code of conduct
- The applicant has been given a copy of the organisation's safeguarding policy and knows how to report concerns

The diversity of organisations and settings means there can be great variation in practice when it comes to safeguarding children, young people and adults. This can be because of cultural tradition, belief and religious practice or understanding, for example, of what constitutes abuse.

We therefore have clear expectations of those with whom we work in partnership, whether in the UK or not. It is our expectation that any organisation using Boleh will have their own policy that meets our safeguarding standards.

We believe good communication is essential in promoting safeguarding, both to those we wish to protect, to everyone involved in working with children and adults and to all those with whom we work in partnership. This safeguarding policy is just one means of promoting safeguarding.

Good Practice

All employees, contractors and volunteers should follow the good practice guidelines at Annex 1 and agree to abide by The Code of Conduct at Annex 1. Those working or volunteering with young people should be aware of the guidance on recognising abuse at Annex 5: What is Child Abuse?

Adults are requested not to enter the showers and changing rooms ashore and whilst in the boat to exercise discretion and sensitivity to the privacy needs of the minors on board in particular at times when children are changing. If this is unavoidable it is advised that they are accompanied by another adult.

Photography

As staff or volunteers with the Boleh Trust you are encouraged to take still and video photographs during Trust activities but you must use the Trust's equipment and not your own personal device. Where you are aware that children or vulnerable adults (and/or their responsible adults) have chosen not to permit their photos to be used you should try to avoid including them in photographs, and you should not make them the main subject of a photograph. Photographs which depict identifiable children or vulnerable adults, and photographs which depict children or vulnerable adults in swimwear or not fully dressed may not be forwarded in any form. Other photographs may be forwarded to yourself for your private use: for reasons of transparency you must not delete them from the Trust's device. Any concerns about

inappropriate or intrusive photography or the inappropriate use of images should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer.

Photographs are of great value in publicising the activities of the Trust, but before publishing a photograph which depicts a child or vulnerable adult you should check that permission is held for the photograph to be used. Where an individual can be identified from a photograph you should not normally use that person's real name, and you should exercise caution in identifying any school or other group they may belong to. If a photograph is to be especially prominent you should consider seeking specific permission for the particular use.

Any concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography or the inappropriate use of images should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer.

(This policy should be read alongside the relevant sections of our Privacy Policy, which provides that the Trust may take and use photographs of those who sail with us in connection with the activities of the charity but (amongst other things) such photographs will be published only when permission has been granted by the individual/child/responsible adults.)

Concerns

Anyone who is concerned about a young person's welfare, should inform the Safeguarding Officer immediately, in strict confidence. The Safeguarding Officer will follow the attached procedures.

**The Safeguarding Officer is: Caroline Middleton. Email: cemiddleton@hotmail.com
Telephone: 07779698963**

Any person failing to comply with the Safeguarding policy and code of conduct will be the subject of disciplinary action and their role within the organization will be carefully considered.

Useful Contacts

The Boleh Trust Safeguarding Officer:

Caroline Middleton.

Email: cemiddleton@hotmail.com

Mobile 07779698963

Thirtyone:eight

The Trust has access to a 24 hour safeguarding hotline 0303 003 1111

Membership number: 15151

<https://thirtyoneeight.org>

NSPCC 24 hour free helpline

For advice on any aspect of children's welfare 0808 800 5000

E-mail: help@nspcc.org.uk

Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline 24 hour free helpline

0800 1111

Website: www.childline.org.uk

MIND – mental health charity

Tel: 0300 123 3393

Text: 86463

E-mail: info@mind.org.uk Website: www.mind.org.uk

Social Care Services

Your local phone book or the website for your County Council or unitary local authority will list numbers for the Children and Families Services, generally with separate numbers for Children's Social Care and for the Emergency Duty Team (out of hours service).

Royal Yachting Association

Safeguarding and Equality Manager RYA House, Ensign Way
Hamble
Southampton

SO31 4YA

Tel: 023 8060 4104

E-mail: safeguarding@rya.org.uk Website: www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding

Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)

Website: www.thecpsu.org.uk

England

Tel: 0116 366 5580 E-mail: cpsu@nspcc.org.uk

UK Coaching – provide Safeguarding and Protecting Children training

Website: www.ukcoaching.org



Annex 1: Employees and Volunteers – Good Practice Guide

This guidance only covers the essential points of good practice when working with children and young people. You should also read the Boleh Trust Child Protection Policy and Procedures which are available for reference at all times.

- Avoid spending any significant time working with children in isolation
- Do not take children alone in a car, however short the journey
- Do not take children to your home as part of your organisation's activity
- Where any of these are unavoidable, ensure that they only occur with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge of the organisation and the child's parents
- If a child is having difficulty with a wetsuit or buoyancy aid, ask them to ask a friend to help if at all possible
- If you do have to help a child, make sure you are in full view of others, preferably another adult
- Restrict communications with young people via mobile phone, e-mail or social media to group communications about organisational matters. If it's essential to send an individual message, copy it to the child's parent or carer (further guidance is at annex).

You should never:

- engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games
- allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form (see below for additional guidance)
- allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged, or use such language yourself when with children
- make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- fail to respond to an allegation made by a child; always act

- do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves.

It may sometimes be necessary to do things of a personal nature for children, particularly if they are very young or disabled. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of the child (where possible) and their parents/carers. In an emergency situation which requires this type of help, parents should be fully informed. In such situations it is important to ensure that any adult present is sensitive to the child and undertakes personal care tasks with the utmost discretion.

Guidance on Touch

- Keep everything public. A hug in the context of a group is very different from a hug behind closed doors.
- Touch should be related to the child, young person or vulnerable adult's needs, not the worker's.
- Touch should be age-appropriate and generally initiated by the child, young person or vulnerable adult, rather than the worker.
- Avoid any physical activity that may be sexually stimulating.
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults are entitled to personal privacy and the right to decide how much physical contact they have with others, except in circumstances such as a medical emergency.
- When giving first aid (or applying sun cream etc.), encourage the child, young person or vulnerable adult to do what they can themselves but, in their best interests giving appropriate help where necessary.
- Team members should monitor one another in the area of physical contact. They should be free to help each other by constructively challenging anything which could be misunderstood or misconstrued.



Annex 2: Online Safety Policy

Online Safety definition:

Online safety is the collective term for safeguarding involving the use of electronic devices and applications to communicate and access the Internet; often referred to as Information and Communications Technology.

Policy guidelines for employees and volunteers

- Generally, maintain good and open relationships with parents and carers regarding communication with them and their children.
- Use an appropriate tone: friendly, but not over-familiar or personal.
- Be warm and friendly, but do not suggest or offer a special relationship.
- Be clear and explicit about information that you need to share; don't abbreviate or short-cut your communications.
- Be circumspect in your communications with children to avoid any possible misinterpretation of your motives or any behaviour which could be construed as grooming.
- Do not share any personal information with children, or request or respond to any personal information from a child other than that which might be appropriate as part of your role.
- Only give personal contact details to children that are within the public domain of the organisation, including your mobile telephone number.
- If children want you to have their mobile phone numbers, e-mail addresses or similar, and communicate with them this way, make sure that their parents know and have agreed.
- Only make contact with children for reasons related to the work of the organisation and retain a record of all electronic contact with individuals or

groups including messaging and texting.

- Where possible only use equipment provided by the organisation to communicate with children.
- Respect a child's right to confidentiality unless abuse/harm is suspected or disclosed.
- Email should only be used to communicate specific information. (e.g. times and dates of events). It should not be used as a relationship building tool.
- Email History should be kept and dated.
- When using email/internet for communication with children, it is advised that it should take place between the hours of 9am-5pm.
- Use of skype and any other web camera or visual communication via the internet is generally not advised. Workers should refrain from using such methods on a one to one basis as they cannot be recorded. (It can be used for conference calls and is considered appropriate if a project or group uses a web camera/Skype in a group environment for project purposes, and has clear aims and objectives for its use).

Social Media Policy

- All social media interaction between workers, paid or voluntary, and children under 18 should be limited to monitored/administrated groups.
- All interaction on social media groups shall be recorded for safeguarding purposes
- Any private messages shall be recorded for safeguarding purposes
- Any safeguarding concerns/allegations arising from social media shall be referred onto the safeguarding co-ordinator.
- All users of social media must be above the minimum age limit i.e. 13 for Facebook
- Workers should ensure their privacy setting ensure the highest levels of security in order to restrict children being able to see any more than what is relevant to communication within the group
- All social media groups should provide links to statutory authorities such as

CEOP, to enable children to report online abuse.



Annex 3: Reporting procedures

A. Concern about a child outside the sport environment

Under no circumstances should a volunteer or worker carry out their own investigation into an allegation or suspicion of abuse. Follow the procedures below:

1. Concern identified follow either:

- a. If child requires immediate medical attention call ambulance and inform doctor that there is a child protection concern.
- b. Report your concern to the Safeguarding Officer who will refer the matter to Children Services/Police without delay
- c. make a record of anything the child has said and/or what has been observed, if possible with dates and times.

2. If option b is used then the following procedure should be followed:

- a. If the Safeguarding Officer or the thirtyone:eight helpline is not available refer the matter directly to Children's Services or the police. Remember delay may place the child at further risk.
- b. Discuss with Children's Services or the Police to agree who will inform the child's parents/carers.
- c. Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.
- d. Complete a referral form at Annex 4 as soon as possible after the incident and copy to Children's Services/Police within 48 hours. Send a copy to the Safeguarding Officer for information.

B. Concern about the behaviour of someone at or connected to The Boleh Trust

The Safeguarding Co-ordinator or worker may need to inform others depending on the circumstances and/or nature of the concern

Chair or trustee responsible for safeguarding who may need to liaise with the insurance company or the charity commission to report a serious incident.

Suspicious must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place.

Concern identified follow either:

- a. If child requires immediate medical attention call ambulance and inform doctor that there is a child protection concern.
- b. Report your concern to the Safeguarding Officer who will refer the matter to Children Services/Police without delay
- c. make a record of anything the child has said and/or what has been observed, if possible with dates and times.

If option b is used then the following procedure should be followed:

Allegations of physical injury, neglect or emotional abuse.

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/worker will:

- Contact Children's Social Services (or thirtyone:eight) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so, having contacted Children's Social Services.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.

- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of significant harm.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Children's Social Services direct for advice.
- Seek and follow advice given by thirtyone:eight (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children's Social Services.

Allegations of sexual abuse

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Deputy will:

- Contact the Children's Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
- Seek and follow the advice given by thirtyone:eight if for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children's Social Services/Police. Thirtyone:eight will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

Allegations of abuse against a person who works with children/young people: If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above, the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures will liaise with Children's Social Services in regards to the suspension of the worker.

Report your concern to the Safeguarding officer who will:

- i. Complete a referral form as soon as possible
- ii. refer the matter to Children Services/Police without delay

- iii. make a record of anything the child has said and/or what has been observed, if possible with dates and times.
- iv. Where the concerns are urgent and the Safeguarding Officer is not available refer immediately to Children's Services/Police and copy a referral form to them within 48 hours.
 - The trustees will be informed and a decision regarding action to be taken
 - Possible outcomes:
 - a. No case to answer
 - b. Complaint resolved between the parties
 - c. Training/mentoring agreed
 - d. More significant concerns emerge and further referrals made to statutory bodies.
 - e. Disciplinary sanctions (including interim temporary suspension)
 - f. Appeal

Handling an allegation from a child

Always:

- stay calm – ensure that the child is safe and feels safe
- show and tell the child that you are taking what he/she says seriously
- reassure the child and stress that he/she is not to blame
- be careful about physical contact, it may not be what the child wants
- be honest, explain that you will have to tell someone else to help stop the alleged abuse
- make a record of what the child has said as soon as possible after the event, using the child's own words
- follow your organisation's child protection procedures.

Never:

- rush into actions that may be inappropriate
- make promises you cannot keep (eg. you won't tell anyone)
- ask leading questions (see 'Recording and handling information' below)
- take sole responsibility – consult someone else (ideally the designated Child

Protection/Welfare Officer or the person in charge or someone you can trust) so that you can begin to protect the child and gain support for yourself.

You may be upset about what the child has said or you may worry about the consequences of your actions. Sometimes people worry about children being removed from their families as a result of abuse, but in reality this rarely happens. However, one thing is certain – you cannot ignore it.

Recording and handling information

If you suspect that a child may have been the subject of any form of physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect, the allegation must be referred as soon as possible to Children's Social Care or the Police who have trained experts to handle such cases. Do not start asking leading questions which may jeopardise any formal investigation.

A leading question is where you suggest an answer or provide options that only need a 'yes' or 'no' answer, instead of allowing the child to explain things in their own words. An example would be asking 'did X hit you?' instead of 'how did you get that bruise?'. Use open questions such as 'what happened next?'. Only ask questions to confirm that you need to refer the matter to someone else. Listen to and keep a record of anything the child tells you or that you have observed and pass the information on to the statutory authorities (see Sample Document 7 for Referral Form).

All information must be treated as confidential and only shared with those who need to know. If the allegation or suspicion concerns someone within the organisation, only the child's parents/carers, the organisation's Welfare Officer, the person in charge of the organisation (unless any of them are the subject of the allegation), the relevant authorities and the Safeguarding Officer should be informed. If the alleged abuse took place outside the sport, the Police or Children's Social Care will decide who else needs to be informed, including the child's parents/carers. It should not be discussed by anyone within the organisation other than the person who received or initiated the allegation and, if different, the person in charge.

Annex 4: Safeguarding and Child Protection referral form



Date and time of incident	
Name and position of person about whom report, complaint or allegation is made	
Name and age of child involved	
Name of club or organisation (if relevant)	
Nature of incident, complaint or allegation (continue on separate page if necessary.	
Action taken by organisation (continue on separate page if necessary)	
If Police or Children's Social Care Services contacted, name, position and telephone number of person handling case	
Name, organisation and position of person completing form	
Contact telephone number and e-mail address	
Signature of person completing form	
Date and time form completed	
Name and position of organisation's child protection/welfare officer or person in charge (if different from above)	
Contact telephone number and e-mail address	

This form should be copied, marked 'Private and Confidential', to the The Boleh Trust Safeguarding Officer Caroline Middleton. Email: cemiddleton@hotmail.com Telephone: 07779698963 and to the statutory authorities (if they have been informed of the incident) within 48 hours of the incident.



Annex 5: What is child abuse?

(Based on the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2018)

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. 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 others (including via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse may involve adults or other children inflicting physical harm:

- hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating
- giving children alcohol or inappropriate drugs
- a parent or carer fabricating the symptoms of, or deliberately inducing, illness in a child
- in sport situations, physical abuse might also occur when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve:

- conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate
- not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate
- imposing expectations which are beyond the child's age or developmental capability
- overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction
- allowing a child to see or hear the ill-treatment of another person
- serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- the exploitation or corruption of children
- emotional abuse in sport might also include situations where parents or coaches subject children to constant criticism, bullying or pressure to perform at a level that the child cannot realistically be expected to achieve.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child.

Sexual abuse. Sexual abuse involves an individual (male or female, or another child) forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities,

whether or not the child is aware of what is happening, to gratify their own sexual needs. The activities may involve:

- physical contact (eg. kissing, touching, masturbation, rape or oral sex)
- involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images
- encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or watch sexual activities
- grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet)
- sport situations which involve physical contact (eg. supporting or guiding children) could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed.

Abusive situations may also occur if adults misuse their power and position of trust over young people.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- respond to a child's basic emotional needs

Neglect in a sport situation might occur if an instructor or coach fails to ensure that children are safe, or exposes them to undue cold or risk of injury.

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs and wants (eg. attention, money or material possessions, alcohol or drugs), and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation can also occur online without involving physical contact.

Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable - including the young - by seeking to: sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination eg. towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society.

Bullying Bullying (including online bullying, for example via text or social media) may be seen as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated or sustained over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. The bully is often another young person. Although anyone can be the target of bullying, victims are typically shy, sensitive and perhaps anxious or insecure. Sometimes they are singled out for physical reasons – being overweight or physically small, being gay or lesbian, having a disability or belonging to a different race, faith or culture.

Bullying can include:

- physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc

- name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation or the continual ignoring of individuals
- posting of derogatory or abusive comments, videos or images on social network sites
- racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, sectarianism
- sexual comments, suggestions or behaviour
- unwanted physical contact.

The acronym STOP – Several Times On Purpose - can help you to identify bullying behaviour.

Recognising Abuse

It is not always easy, even for the most experienced carers, to spot when a child has been abused. However, some of the more typical symptoms which should trigger your suspicions would include:

- unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries
- sexually explicit language or actions
- a sudden change in behaviour (eg. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper)
- the child describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her
- a change observed over a long period of time (eg. the child losing weight or becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt)
- a general distrust and avoidance of adults, especially those with whom a close relationship would be expected
- an unexpected reaction to normal physical contact
- difficulty in making friends or abnormal restrictions on socialising with others.

It is important to note that a child could be displaying some or all of these signs, or behaving in a way which is worrying, without this necessarily meaning that the child is being abused. Similarly, there may not be any signs, but you may just feel that something is wrong. If you have noticed a change in the child's behaviour, first talk to the parents or carers. It may be that something has happened, such as a bereavement, which has caused the child to be unhappy.

If you are concerned

If there are concerns about sexual abuse or violence in the home, talking to the parents or carers might put the child at greater risk. If you cannot talk to the parents/carers, consult your organisation's designated Welfare/Safeguarding Officer or the person in charge. It is this person's responsibility to make the decision to contact Children's Social Care Services or the Police. It is NOT their responsibility to decide if abuse is taking place, BUT it is their responsibility to act on your concerns.