Child Safeguarding Policy

Canterbury Crocodiles Dodgeball Club believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, nationality, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for the young people who receive Canterbury Crocodile Dodgeball Club's services, including the children of adult members or users.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt if they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, committee members or anyone working on behalf of Canterbury Crocodiles Dodgeball Club.

We will seek to safeguard young people by:

- Accepting the moral and legal responsibility to provide a duty of care to protect and safeguard the wellbeing of all children engaged in any activity which we have control over
- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Ensuring those working or volunteering with children provide a safe, positive and fun experience for children
- Ensuring those working or volunteering with children know it is not their responsibility to determine if abuse has occurred, but it is their responsibility to report and act on any concerns they have
- Appointing and training a Safeguarding and Welfare Officer
- Ensuring those working or volunteering with children know this policy applies to them
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Ensuring all suspicions concerns and allegations are taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately

- Ensuring accessing to confidential information relation to child safeguarding matters is restricted to the Safeguarding and Welfare Officer, and/or relevant staff and the appropriate external authorities such as Police, Children's Social Care Services, the Local Authority Designated Officer (DO).

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse - includes hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. *Physical abuse within dodgeball may be when the nature and intensity of training and competition exceeds the capacity of the young person's immature and growing body or the use of drugs to enhance performance.*

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 could involve telling a child they are worthless, unloved, inadequate or useless; making fun of what they say and how they communicate; serious bullying causing the child to feel frightened or in danger. *Emotional abuse within dodgeball may occur if young people are subjected to constant criticism, name-calling, sarcasm, bullying, racist taunts or unrealistic pressure to perform consistently to high expectations.*

Sexual Abuse – 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. It could involve physical contact (including rape or oral sex), non-penetrative acts (including masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing), non-contact activities (including involving children looking at, or in the production of, sexual images or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse). Sexual abuse can be perpetrated by males, females or other children. *Sexual abuse in dodgeball may involve unnecessary or inappropriate physical contact and could create situations where sexual abuse could go unnoticed. Care and thought needs to be given to this. It could involve showing under 18s indecent images.*

Neglect – The 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 (including failure to provide adequate food, clothing or shelter; inadequate supervision, inadequate access to medical care or treatment and failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger). *Within dodgeball neglect could include a coach not ensuring the young people are safe, exposing them to undue cold, heat, unnecessary risk of injury, or not allowing adequate fluids in hot weather.*

Bullying – whilst not currently defined as a form of abuse in UK Government Guidance, there is clear evidence that it is abusive and will include at least one, two, three or all four of the defined categories of abuse above. It is also the most common form of abuse you may come across. The deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. It can take many forms but the three main types are physical (hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (racist or

homophobic remarks, threats, name calling), and emotional (isolating an individual from activities and social acceptance of their peer group). Anti-bullying strategies should be rigorously enforced.

Cyber bullying occurs online and can be very damaging as children cannot get away from it and can be subjected to it 24 hours a day.

Bullying is probably the most common form of abuse within sport. Canterbury Crocodiles Dodgeball Club operates a zero tolerance towards bullying and will take steps to deal with any issues and support the victim.

Reporting Concerns
Any member of staff, member or non-member who has a safeguarding concern should speak to the Safeguarding and Welfare Officer or complete a safeguarding referral form and return it to the Safeguarding and Welfare Officer. In an emergency, contact the Police and tell them it is a child protection concern.

All Safeguarding Concerns Must be Reported to the Safeguarding and Welfare Officer

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