

Oxshott Village Sports Club Ref May 06

Child Welfare Policy

INTRODUCTION

OVSC supports the National Governing Bodies (“NGB”) guidelines for those working with children in sport. OVSC has taken into account various NGB’s Child Protection Policies in putting together this policy.

The key principles of the NGB’s policies are that:

- a child’s welfare is, and must always be, paramount
- all children have the right to be protected from abuse
- your Club will provide an enjoyable but safe and secure environment
- your Club will act appropriately on any suspicious activity or allegation of abuse that may arise

In order to implement the policy, your Club has produced this three-way charter which outlines the responsibilities of each of the participating parties (your Club, the Club coaching staff and parents or guardians).

A Child Protection policy statement is displayed on the notice board in the Club. Sports sections have appointed welfare officers and their details are shown on the respective boards.

Children and adult members can make contact with the Club’s Child Protection Officer if they are concerned about child protection in any way. Any such issues will be treated in the strictest of confidence and appropriate action taken.

We request that you return the tear off slip saying you have received this Policy and are willing to undertake the parent/guardian responsibilities and allow your child to be included in publicity photographs.

YOUR CLUB WILL:

- provide a safe playing environment which will include well maintained sports areas and fencing, treat young people with respect and listen and act on their concerns
- ensure that the sports coaches, assistants and other carers are of good character. All such people will be required:
 - to obtain a Criminal Records Bureau police check certificate and/or complete a self-declaration form
 - to adopt the NGB’s Codes of Ethics and Conduct
- provide coaches who, apart from demonstrating good technical and teaching skills, will have obtained recognised coaching qualifications
- provide coaches who have their own current insurance policies to an appropriate level of cover and aim to have all coaches licensed with their respective NGB

- provide a well-stocked first aid kit for the use of the coaches who will have undertaken a first aid course. Coaches will also have access to a mobile phone in case of any emergency
- ensure that the coach maintains an attendance register for coaching sessions and an accident or incident register
- provide specific programmes and facilities for children with adequate supervision at all times
- have Public Liability insurance

However, in relation to this Policy:

- (a) parents are asked to recognise that all sports have an inherent risk to them and accidents cannot be eliminated entirely; and
- (b) the Club will carry out its responsibilities above so far as it is able to do so.

YOUR SPORTS COACH WILL:

- provide as far as he/she is able a safe environment for all children
- ensure that there is adequate supervision of children at all times
- have the objective of developing the playing skills of junior players in a manner appropriate to an individual child
- ensure that suitable warm-ups are carried out prior to each lesson
- adhere to the NGB Code of Ethics and Conduct
- keep up to date with techniques and skills by attending regular seminars including first aid courses
- acquaint himself/herself with any medical condition a child may have
- ensure he/she knows how each child is leaving the club after a coaching session
- maintain a register of attendance and register of incidents causing injury on court
- maintain a parent/guardian contact list for parents with emergency phone numbers
- have his or her own policy of insurance to an appropriate level of cover
- in addition to coaching, help to arrange internal and external matches
- adhere to the NGB guidelines for travel regarding children on away fixtures
- not allow children to participate if they are clearly unwell or injured

- set a good example to junior players in term of conduct including language and dress code

PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE ASKED TO:

- inform the coaches of any medical condition affecting your child
- ensure that children under 13 are collected punctually from OVSC after lessons
- keep the coach and membership secretary informed of change of address and contact phone numbers
- provide appropriate personal cover for the elements
- provide food and water to cover the coaching/playing session
- Encourage children to respect the Club, and the facilities at all times.
- Recognise that the Club does not and cannot provide supervision of the children outside of the managed coaching or organised sessions. Children may use the facilities during the day other than at specific adult sessions but they do so at the parents' guardians' sole risk

Your Club does not wish to alarm anybody regarding child protection but it is the responsibility of everyone involved in Sport to safeguard children. We have no reason to believe that best practice is not already in operation. The committee has sought advice from various NGB's who are strongly committed to implementing child protection policies in sports clubs throughout the country. It is with your children's best interests in mind that we are introducing this Policy.

The club understands that it is not their responsibility to determine if child abuse is occurring but it is their responsibility to act upon and report any concerns.

Your Club hopes that it meets with your approval to ensure the safety of all those concerned.

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To Oxshott Village Sports Club

I/We have received and agree to the parents/guardians responsibilities outlined in the "OVSC Child Welfare Policy" version May 2006.

Name of Child/children

Signed Date
(parent/guardian)

Please return this form to Mr R Gasston OVSC, Steels Lane, Oxshott, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0RF

Local Media or one of our coaches / members may take photographs of the children during tournaments for publicity purposes. NGB's now require us to obtain parental permission for this and instruct that the children should not be individually named.

I do / do not give permission for my child to be included in any pre or post event publicity, including photographs, video footage or television coverage surrounding any match or event.

Permission for the use of photographs and recorded images

OVSC ('The Club') recognises the need to ensure the welfare and safety of all young people in sport. As part of this commitment we will not permit photographs, video images or other images of young people to be taken or used without the consent of the parent/guardian and the young player. The club will follow the guidance issued by the NGB's on the use of images of young people. The club will take steps to ensure that these images are used solely for the purpose they are intended, which is the promotion and celebration of the sporting activities. If you become aware that these images are being used inappropriately you should inform the appropriate sports section Welfare Officer immediately.

Transport to matches and practice sessions

OVSC's ('The Club') policy is that parents or other responsible adults are responsible for transporting players to and from all matches and practice sessions and therefore the club will not be registering private vehicles for the transportation of individuals in connection with any fixtures or practice sessions arranged by the Club. The implementation of this policy is not intended to exclude any player from participating and parents or guardians should contact the Club Welfare officer if they have any problems with the transportation of players to matches or practice sessions

Club changing room policy

All parents must be aware that there are circumstances under which players under the age of 16 years may find themselves changing clothes in the presence of persons over 18 years. The club requests that if any parent is not comfortable with this arrangement then it is their responsibility to ensure the following:

- Young players who do not wish to change or shower with adults are under no obligation to do so and are advised to change and shower at home
- Parental consent should be given if young players are to share Changing facilities with adults
- It is the responsibility of the parent concerned to ensure that their child does not enter changing facilities at any time if consent is not given.

Signed Date
(parent/guardian)