

# **THE RUGBY FIVES ASSOCIATION**

## **Child Protection Safeguards**

The Children Act 1989 defines children as those under the age of 18 and it is concerned with the protection of children from any form of abuse. Abuse is illegal.

### **Policy Statement**

The RFA seeks to safeguard all children involved in RFA activities from harm. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. The RFA will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in RFA activities through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the RFA.

### **The Different Types of Abuse**

- Over-zealous coach
- Physical abuse through over-training
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse through bullying and pressure to succeed.

### **Good Practice Guidelines**

Anyone working with children within the game of Rugby Fives should

- be professional and maintain the highest standards of personal behaviour
- always work in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication )
- treat all young people equally, and with respect and dignity
- always put the welfare of each young person first, before winning or achieving goals
- maintain a safe and appropriate distance from players
- be an excellent role model – this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol while coaching or playing Fives with young people
- give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- recognise the developmental needs and capacity of young people, avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will
- be aware of physical contact with a player when helping to develop a game skill. This might be interpreted wrongly by the player or an observer
- not respond to any form of sexual innuendo
- ensure, as far as possible, that they are not alone when working with young players.

### **What to do if a Problem does occur**

Report any concerns within the area of Child Protection to the General Secretary.

Do not discuss an allegation or suspicion with another person, other than the police, before the General Secretary has been contacted.

Make a record of any relevant details and information, including the nature of the allegation, background information, the period of time involved and the degree to

which the information is known to be fact rather than opinion or hearsay. These records should be retained indefinitely.

Make no comment to the media.

*Last revised January 2014*