



SafeSport

CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

On February 14th, 2018, the *Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017* was enacted by Congress and became federal law. It is more commonly referred to as the SafeSport Act.

MANDATORY REPORTING

Coaches/volunteers are required to report suspicions of child abuse including sex abuse within a 24-hour period to the appropriate agency.

When the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect is the child's parent, guardian, or a person responsible for the child's welfare, the report must be made to the county DSS office or to Law Enforcement in the county where the child resides.

When the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect is NOT the child's parent, guardian, or a person responsible for the child's welfare, the report must be made to Law Enforcement in the county where the child resides.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, contact the SCDSS 24-hour, toll-free hotline at 1-888-CARE4US or 1-888-227-3487 or contact the Newberry County Sheriff's Office at 803-321-2211.

Note: Coaches/volunteers are required to report, not investigate.

PROHIBITED RETALIATION

Individuals who report misconduct suspicions in good faith will be protected against any retaliation, punishment, and other harm regardless of the outcome of any investigation. Anyone who retaliates is subject to disciplinary action. Likewise, complainants who act in bad faith in making malicious or frivolous allegations are subject to civil and criminal actions and disciplinary action by the Newberry County Parks and Recreation Department.

LIMITING ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS WITH MINORS

Two adults (ex: any combination of coach(es), volunteer(s), parent(s)) should be present at all times so that a minor cannot be isolated one on one with an unrelated adult.

Individual meetings should be avoided. If an individual meeting is deemed necessary, it should be conducted when others are present and where interactions can be easily observed.

Except as provided above, with regard to individual meetings, any one-on-one interaction between an adult and an unrelated minor participant should be avoided. A possible exception may occur if the minor is waiting to be picked up so that the minor will not be left unattended or unsupervised. In such cases, the adult and minor shall remain in the open until another adult arrives.



TRAINING INFORMATION

At a minimum, we strongly recommend that parents review the age-appropriate training document found at the link(s) below or information contained herein and discuss age-appropriate content with your child in the privacy of your home.

<https://www.sadlersports.com/safesport-minor-training-ages4-12/>

<https://www.sadlersports.com/safesport-minor-training-ages13-17/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Protecting Against Sexual Abuse and Molestation in Youth Sports

<https://www.sadlersports.com/blog/protecting-against-sexual-abuse-molestation-youth-sports/>

Dixie Youth Baseball® Child Protection Plan

<http://youth.dixie.org/> (Click on Child Protection Plan)

Abuse Avoidance Training for Minors

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Abuse is when someone intentionally hurts another person, either physically or emotionally. Different types of abuse are covered below:

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is deliberate, non-contact behavior that can cause emotional or mental harm to a child that is repeated over time. Non-contact behavior can be verbal and physical, or denying a child attention or support. This can mean someone making another person feel worthless, unwanted, or not cared for.

Bullying is intentionally aggressive physical and/or non-physical behavior repeated over time that hurts, threatens or frightens another person. Bullying can take place both on and off the field. Bullies can be teammates, parents, coaches, spectators, or umpires.

Cyberbullying is the use of the internet or cell phones to harass and bully another person. This can be in the form of mean text messages, posting unwanted pictures of someone else on social media, and creating a fake social media account and pretending to be someone else.

Harassment is unwanted behavior that is repeated over time and that annoys, puts down, threatens, or offends someone else. Below are examples:

Hazing is a physically harmful or offensive act that is forced onto someone or someone is forced to do. Hazing often occurs as an initiation for a new member of a team.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse is unwelcome touching or spoken sexual interactions. These may be aggressive or threatening actions.

Grooming

Adults who sexually take advantage of children groom them by being a friend so the child will like them. They want the child to trust them. Next, bad adults find ways to be alone with the child and they begin non-sexual touching such as tickling or wrestling which gradually turns into touching private parts. Once the sexual touching starts, bad adults want to continue the sexual touching and prevent children from telling an adult by blaming the child or by threatening the child or the child's family with violence. Below are typical grooming behaviors and situations that lead to abuse.

- Abusers pretend to be responsible adults such as coaches and teachers who care about children and win the trust of their child victims and their parents.
- But it is a warning sign when abusers appear to care too much and want to hang out around children too frequently outside of official team practices and games.
- Abusers often offer children gifts, money, special trips to do fun things, babysitting, help with homework, and other favors to be liked and trusted and to spend time alone with them.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse is hitting, shaking, choking, burning, pinching, beating, or other methods used to cause pain or injury. A child who is physically abused will likely have cuts, bruises, or other marks on his/her body.

If you think you are being abused, the most important thing you can do is to immediately tell someone you trust. Do so even if the person hurting you tells you that something bad will happen if you tell anyone. You should immediately tell your parent or guardian. If you cannot trust anyone at home, talk to someone at school like a teacher, counselor, or school nurse. A family friend, pastor or neighbor can also help. No matter what, abuse is never your fault and you do not deserve it. All kids deserve to have adults in their lives who love and support them as they grow up.