

CHINNOR Rugby Football Club in Thame



Guidance for Dealing with Challenging Behaviour

Volunteers who deliver rugby training to children may, on occasions, be required to deal with a child's challenging behaviour.

These guidelines aim to promote good practice and to encourage a proactive response to supporting children to manage their own behaviour. It suggests some strategies and sanctions, which can be used and also identifies unacceptable sanctions or interventions, which must never be used by volunteers.

These guidelines are adapted from the NSPCC and include the views and suggestions of children. The guidelines are based on the following principles:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- Children must never be subject to any form of treatment that is harmful, abusive, humiliating or degrading.
- Some children exhibit challenging behaviour as a result of specific circumstances, e.g. a medical or psychological condition or something happening in their personal life and coaches may therefore require specific or additional guidance. These and any other specific needs the child may have should be discussed with parents/carers and the child in planning, to ensure that an appropriate approach is agreed.
- Sport can make a significant contribution to improving the life experience of all children and young people. Every child should be supported to participate and, only in exceptional circumstances where the safety of a child or of other children cannot be maintained, should a child be excluded from club activities.

Managing Challenging Behaviour

In responding to challenging behaviour the response should always be proportionate to the actions, be imposed as soon as is practicable and be fully explained to the child. In dealing with children who display negative or challenging behaviours, volunteers might consider the following options:

- Time out.
- Reparation – e.g. Shaking hands.
- Behavioural reinforcement – praise and rewards for good behaviour, consequences for negative behaviour. It is recommended that the frequency of praise should exceed frequency of consequences for negative behaviour.
- De-escalation with the child – talking it through with the child.
- Increased supervision by volunteers.
- Seeking additional / specialist support through working in partnership with other agencies to ensure a child's needs are met appropriately e.g. discussion with the child's key worker if they have one or speaking to the child's school about management strategies (both require parental consent unless the child is felt to be 'at risk').
- Temporary or permanent exclusion.
- Informing the parents / carers of actions taken.

The following must NEVER be permitted as a means of managing a child's behaviour:

- Physical punishment or the threat of such.
- Refusal to speak to or interact with the child.
- Being deprived of water, food, access to changing facilities or toilets or other essential facilities.
- Verbal intimidation, ridicule or humiliation.

If you witness or are aware of any incident where the welfare of a child has been put at risk please in the first instance inform the Club Safeguarding Officer, Mandy Spencer; safeguarding@chinnor-rfc.com

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Richard Hinde-Smith	Mini Chair U6-U13	minichairman@chinnor-rfc.com	07767 821 300
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Pete Conway	Club Chairman	chairman@chinnor-rfc.com	07763 943 669

This Policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- As required by RFU guidelines.
- As a result of any significant change or event.