

BIPHA SOUTH CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGAURDING POLICY

This policy is produced in conjunction with the BIPHA child protection policy & the Child Protection Procedures Handbook/Code of Conduct and Best Practice. It is used to endorse the commitment to develop a culture in which children and young people in the sport of Inline Hockey in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Main Policy

BIPHA SOUTH is committed to safeguarding its children and young people. Safeguarding is defined as follows:

- Protecting children from abuse.
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development.
- Ensuring children grow up with provision of safe and effective care.
- Enable all children to have the best possible outcome.

To this end, BIPHA SOUTH adopt the BIPHA child protection and safeguarding policy in addition to all that is outlined in this policy.

The region is committed to equal access to safe training and playing opportunities, and to promote its sport to a diverse current and potential membership. It does not allow discrimination against, or harassment of, any current or potential members.

In addition to this, the region recognises its responsibility to report suspected abuse of all children and young people in its care. This will always be done in line with the BIPHA policy as its governing body.

Abuse of children can take a number of forms:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect

The region recognises that coaches and managers and officials have a privileged position and may be seen by a child/young person as a relationship of trust, and therefore they may disclose information of abuse, or may exhibit behaviour that is unusual and gives concern of abuse. In all cases, BISHA procedures will be followed, which may include referral to social services or police where appropriate.

All players, managers and coaches are required to sign a code of conduct to ensure a safe fun involvement in its sporting activities. This should be done at club level. This includes providing structured and disciplined, yet fun, training and match play opportunities, stressing the importance of courtesy and consideration for each other, the staff and other sport centre users. Appropriate behaviour and safe use of kit and equipment is required of all members. Bullying is not tolerated at any level, from coaches, players or parents/supporters, and appropriate action will be taken according to BIPHA policy if suspected.

All coaches and managers and officials undergo Disclosure & Barring Service checks, and only DBS approved coaches and other adults are allowed on a bench at a game (maximum of two). Coaches and Managers are not to be alone with any child (except their own), and must avoid unnecessary and inappropriate physical contact.

In order to protect children, they are only allowed to play up one age group. Playing up should only take place if considered appropriate by the coaches.

All allegations should be reported to the region CPO, who is currently **Katherine Sherrington**, and BIPHA procedures would then be followed. Allegations may be made by children, coaches or parents/spectators.

Photography

Photography and video images may be taken for training and publicity purposes. At no point should a child's name and photograph be placed in the same image or on the same site. Parents can restrict the use of a child's image or name by notifying the committee.

Social Media

Social media can be used to share information and news. However, coaches and managers and officials will not be friends with children on social media and not have private conversations with children, except their own or those in their family.

Transportation

Transportation to matches or training is the responsibility of the parents. Occasionally coaches/managers may transport children, but this must only be done once parental agreement has been given. If organised transport is used, then at least two regional officials will supervise children on the coach, but will not sit with the children, except their own or other members of their family.

Child Safeguarding and Protection is of paramount importance to all at BIPHA South, and therefore all appropriate codes of conduct and practices will be followed and this policy will be reviewed by the committee every three years.

Last update: 26 October 2016