

Romsey Fencing Club

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

Policy

Romsey Fencing Club recognises its responsibility for the care, welfare and safety for the children, young people and vulnerable adults in its charge and values individuals for their unique talents and abilities. We aim to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment, in which all can learn and develop to their full potential.

Information given to our coaches and Welfare Officer about possible abuse of children, young people or vulnerable adults cannot be held in confidence. In the interests of the individual, our coaches and Welfare Officer may need to share this information with childcare professionals, parents or guardians or the police. However only those who need to know will be told.

All our coaches working with children and vulnerable adults will hold the appropriate fencing qualification or have equivalent experience, be DBS checked and will have attended a safeguarding course.

Romsey Fencing Club has made provision for the role of Welfare Officer who will be DBS checked and will attend a Safeguarding and Protecting Children course as soon as possible after appointment.

Definition

In this policy, abuse is defined as:

Neglect

The persistent or significant neglect of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or the failure to protect a child, young person or vulnerable adult from exposure to danger of any child.

A child is any person under 18 years of age.

Vulnerable adult

A vulnerable adult is defined in full under section 59 of the 2006 Act (Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups). In summary, a person is a vulnerable adult if they have attained the age of 18, and

- are in residential accommodation,
- they are in sheltered housing,
- they receive domiciliary care,
- they receive any form of health care,
- they are detained in lawful custody,
- they are by virtue of an order of a court under supervision by a person exercising functions for the purposes of **Part 1 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 (c. 43), in England and Wales,**
- they are by virtue of an order of a court under supervision by a probation officer in Northern Ireland,
- Is receiving a welfare service defined as the provision of support, assistance or advice by any person, the purpose of which is to develop an individual's capacity to live independently in accommodation or support their capacity to do so
- they receive any service or participate in any activity provided specifically for persons due to age, disability, prescribed physical or mental problem, expectant or nursing mothers in accommodation or a person of a prescribed description not falling in the above,

Source:

ISA Referral Guidance, Independent Safeguarding Authority, 2010.

Neglect the persistent or significant neglect of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or the failure to protect a child, young person or vulnerable adult from exposure to danger of anykind, including cold or starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of health or development

Physical injury to a child, young person or vulnerable adult whether deliberately inflicted or knowingly not prevented

Sexual the sexual exploitation of a child, young person or vulnerable adult for an adult's or another young person's own sexual gratification; the involvement of a child, young person or vulnerable adults in sexual activities of any kind (including exposure to pornography) which they do not understand, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate normal family roles.

Emotional persistent or significant emotional ill treatment or rejection, resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of a child or vulnerable adult.

Bullying persistent, offensive, abusive, intimidating or insulting behaviour, which makes the recipient feel upset, threatened humiliated or vulnerable, which undermines their self confidence and which may cause them to suffer stress.

Disclosure from child or young person

If a child or young person makes a disclosure to a coach or the Welfare Officer which gives rise to concerns about possible abuse or if the coach or Welfare Officer has concerns about a child or young person, the coach or Welfare Officer will act promptly.

The coach or Welfare Officer will not investigate this but will report these concerns immediately to the parent or carer - unless there are concerns that the parent or carer could be the abuser- and make full notes.

Where there are concerns that the parent or carer is the abuser, then the Welfare Officer will inform the Head Teacher of the child or young person's school so that the necessary steps may be taken. The coach or Welfare Officer will keep any notes in confidence to be produced or referred to as necessary.

If there are serious concerns that need immediate attention about a child or young person then the coach or Welfare Officer will contact the Police (999) and ask for the Child Protection Unit or the local Social Services.

Disclosure from Vulnerable Adult

Where the disclosure is made by a person over the age of 18, the coach and Welfare Officer will discuss the appropriate steps to be taken with the **British Fencing Association (BFA)** which could include notifying the police or social services.

When the disclosure is made out of office hours and if there is significant cause for concern the coach and Welfare Officer will contact the police and or social services as necessary.

Third party concerns

Where the Welfare Officer is told by a third party who has concerns about a fellow club member, the Welfare Officer will, where necessary, talk to the club member about whom there are concerns and outline the role of a Welfare Officer and what can be done to help. The Welfare Officer will also inform the coach.

In all three cases, an extraordinary meeting of the Committee will be immediately called so that the coaches are aware of the situation. Confidentiality will be respected.

Complaint against the Chairman

Where a complaint is made about the Chairman, the Chairman will remain away from the club and Committee work until the matter has been thoroughly investigated by the Committee. The Committee will ensure that the necessary action is taken. The complainant and the Chairman will be kept informed throughout the process.

Complaint against the Welfare Officer

Where a complaint is made about the Welfare Officer, the Welfare Officer will remain away from the club and Committee work until the matter has been thoroughly investigated by the Committee. The

Committee will ensure that the necessary action is taken. The complainant and the Welfare Officer will be kept informed throughout the process.

Complaint against a Romsey Fencing Club coach

Where a complaint is made about a coach, the coach will remain away from the club until the matter has been thoroughly investigated by the Chairman and Welfare Officer. The Committee will ensure that the necessary action is taken. The complainant and the coach will be kept informed throughout the process.

Complaint against another child, young person or vulnerable adult

Any complaint will be fully investigated by the Welfare Officer and action taken to protect the victim. A parent or carer making a complaint will have a personal response from Romsey Fencing Club outlining the action being taken.

Inappropriate behaviour away from club (competitions and training camps)

Romsey Fencing Club coaches will take all reasonable measures to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults in their care are looked after and protected from harm.

Romsey Fencing Club coaches will ensure that the competition and training camp venues are safe and suitable for use and that all coaches and trainers coming into contact with their charges have been DBS checked and have the appropriate qualifications or equivalent experience.

Romsey coaches will ensure appropriate charge to coach ratio.

Romsey coaches will ensure that any allegations or reports of inappropriate behaviour are appropriately reported and dealt with, taking advice as necessary from Welfare Officers, the BFA, police and social services.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and amended as necessary.

This policy should be read in conjunction with BFA guidelines.

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