

## Section 4 -Recognise and respond to signs and symptoms of child abuse and poor practise.

### Information on abuse.

**Neglect** includes situation in which adults:

- ▶ Fail to meet a child's basic physical needs (e.g. for food, warm clothing)
- ▶ Consistently leave children alone and unsupervised
- ▶ Fail or refuse to give children love, affection or attention.

Neglect in a sports situation might also occur if a teacher or coach fails to ensure children are safe or exposes them to undue heat, cold or risk of injury.444444



# Values & feelings in relation to child abuse

**Physical abuse**, includes situations in which adults:

- ▶ Physically hurt or injure children (e.g. by hitting, shaking, squeezing, biting or burning)
- ▶ Give children alcohol, inappropriate drugs or poison
- ▶ Attempt to suffocate or drown children.

In sports situations, physical abuse may also occur if performance enhancing drugs are used, or when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body.



# Values & feelings in relation to child abuse

**Sexual Abuse.** Boys and girls are sexually abused when adults (male or female) use them to meet their own sexual needs. This could include:

- ▶ Full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, fondling.
- ▶ Showing children pornographic books, photographs or videos, or taking pictures for pornographic purposes.
- ▶ Sexting

Sports situations which involve physical contact (e.g. supporting or guiding children) could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. Abusive situation may also occur if adults misuse their power over young people.



# Values & feelings in relation to child abuse

**Emotional Abuse** can occur in a number of ways. For example, where:

- ▶ There is a persistent lack of love and affection.
- ▶ There is a constant overprotection which prevents children from socialising.
- ▶ Children are frequently being shouted at or taunted.
- ▶ There is bullying, neglect, physical or sexual abuse.

Emotional abuse in sport may also include situation where parents or coaches subject children to constant criticism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations.



# Definition of Bullying.

Bullying is deliberate hurtful behaviour usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. Bullying can be verbal, written or physical. Bullying can be committed by the coach, official and also by team mates or other athletes.



# Section 4 - Signs of Abuse.

Typical signs of Abuse include:

- ▶ Unexplained bruising or injuries
- ▶ Sexually explicit language/actions
- ▶ Sudden changes in behaviour
- ▶ Something a child has said
- ▶ A change observed over a long period of time
- ▶ Self harming

NB these signs may not constitute abuse. However you should be aware of behaviour changes or for a cluster of signs.

**PLEASE READ, reading material 1 - 'SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE'** (Need a link)

