

CHILD WELFARE RATIONALE & ETHOS

Every child who plays sport should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in working with children in youth sport. Child abuse is a very serious and emotive issue for society as a whole – a child could die or be permanently mentally scarred if abuse is not recognised and acted upon. Child abuse is a difficult and sensitive subject. *It is vital to understand the feelings involved but not allow them to interfere with one's judgement about any action which it is felt should be taken.*

HCSC recognises that it has a duty of care towards children, defined as all those under 18 years of age, who enjoy playing sport at whatever level. We recognise our obligation to ensure that those to whom we provide sporting opportunities receive the highest possible standard of care.

The ethos of HCSC

- We recommend keeping the atmosphere purposeful, 'professional' but calm.
- We believe that the ethos must be one of complete trust between coaches, players and parents.
- Our children must feel safe and confident, not least in being willing to try things and make mistakes

Respect

Coaching staff take an interest in and have respect for all children and young people. In return they expect respect from the children and amongst each other.

Expectations

Coaches should aim to be consistent in their expectations, which will always be of the highest level whilst remaining realistic. They should aim to be open and honest and set an example of good social behaviour with each other and with young players. They should always try to be very clear about what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

Recognising achievement and being positive

Coaches should aim to give praise for achievements, making sure the player knows what the praise is for. They should be positive in their choice of words, tone of voice, body language and attitude. They should try to minimise use of negatives and be constructive, especially in criticisms.