

Poor Practice

What is poor practice?

Poor Practice is behaviour which falls below the standard required by a club as set out in the Code of Conduct. Whilst the behaviour may not be immediately dangerous or intentionally harmful it does set a poor example and if it were to continue, it might lead to harm or put a child in danger.

To allow poor practice to continue unchallenged may result in an environment developing in which abuse may be able to take place. It normalises behaviour which is unacceptable and should not be condoned. It may also lead to other people having suspicions about an individual's motivations, even if there was no intention to harm.

If it is decided that the matter is one of poor practice and is to be dealt with by the club then it will need to be referred to the club disciplinary committee (which could simply be the club chairman, secretary and designated safeguarding officer depending on the club constitution) to be dealt with as quickly as possible. It is important that club disciplinary rules refer to poor practice to enable such issues to be dealt with through that process.

examples of Poor Practice (Tier 1)

- Failure to provide effective supervision for coaching sessions which should be properly planned;
- Putting performance over the wellbeing and safety of players;
- Having a win at all costs mentality and failing to be gracious in defeat;
- Lack of respect for other individuals, such as match officials, opposition coaches, players, managers and spectators and failing to accept a match official's decision (this may be dealt with by way of on field disciplinary proceedings but may fall short of being dealt with in this way)
- Having favourites and not treating all children fairly and equitably;
- Allowing rough and dangerous play, bullying, the use of bad language or inappropriate behaviour by players;
- Overtraining and exerting undue influence over players;
- Using punishments that humiliate or harm children;
- Not taking time to explain coaching techniques and ensuring they are understood by all players;
- Condoning rule violations by players and not adhering to the laws and spirit of the game;
- Not holding required FA coaching qualifications for the role being carried out;
- Providing one to one coaching without any supervision or the presence of other adults;
- Inappropriate use of social media;

- Allowing children to discriminate on the grounds of religion, race, gender, social class or lack of ability;
- Failure to encourage children to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour;
- Engaging in, or tolerating, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour;
- Failure to challenge poor practice in others;
- Allowing allegations of abuse to go unchallenged or unrecorded and failing to report these to the DSO;
- Failure to record incidents or accidents
- First aid being administered without others being present other than in an emergency
- Not referring more serious medical incidents to the club first aider;
- Not having access to a telephone to be able to immediately contact emergency services if necessary;
- Not working as part of a team to ensure the safety of children in their care;
- Failing to address the additional needs of disabled players or other vulnerable groups;
- Allowing confidential information to be shared inappropriately;
- Failure to respect and listen to the opinions of children and consider the rights and responsibilities of children;
- Failure to display and promote consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance;
- Smoking and consuming alcohol during coaching sessions;
- Spending excessive time alone with children;
- Taking children to their own home;
- Not adhering to guidance when transporting children including travel abroad.

The above list is not an exhaustive, but it should give an idea of the type of behaviour which constitutes poor practice.

If you have a poor practice concern, the club welfare officer is the first point of contact.

Our Club Welfare Officer is

Lisa Huntington, 07980042155, lisa210kuk@hotmail.com

It's important that the club is given the opportunity to resolve the matter before seeking any escalation.

You can report your POOR PRACTICE safeguarding concern here

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7bd48f4191874d1bb0f1ece9d9e8510b>