



## Child Protection

### DUTY OF CARE

- ☞ Child Protection is a duty of care for young people and a responsibility to protect them from harm in a safe environment
- ☞ The legal definition of a child is any person under the age of 18
- ☞ Every effort must be made to give the same level of care to the young people as would a reasonably responsible parent

### WHAT IS ABUSE?

#### ☞ Emotional

- Continuous negative feedback
- Ignoring young players' progress
- Demanding unrealistic performances
- Over emphasis of the winning ethic
- Verbal abuse

#### ☞ Physical

- Bullying
- Over training/playing
- Physical involvement by a coach in training
- Exposure to drugs and alcohol

#### ☞ Neglect

- Lack of supervision
- Exposure to extremes of temperature and risk of injury

## ☞ Sexual

- Inappropriate contact
- Exploitation - Abuse of Power
- The majority of reported or perceived instances of abuse within Rugby Union relate to poor practice.

The following might appear slanted towards coaches, but there is a need for all to know

## **GUIDELINES FOR GOOD PRACTICE**

- ☞ Always be publicly open - never work alone unobserved
- ☞ Supervise changing in pairs
- ☞ Never permit any form of inappropriate touching
- ☞ Don't allow explicit language to go unchallenged
- ☞ Never make suggestive comments to youngsters, even in fun
- ☞ Never agree to meet a youngster on your own outside of the context of the normal coaching or mentoring process
- ☞ When coaching girls always ensure there is a woman present
- ☞ Always maintain a 'distance' between yourself and the youngsters

## **MATCH OFFICIALS -THINK!**

- ☞ There are extra precautions that Referees can take to avoid being subject to complaint
  - Avoid sharing a changing room with children
  - Do not share the same shower facilities
  - When inspecting the kit in the changing room ensure the coach is present

## **FINALLY**

- ☞ No CRB Form = No Officiating @ Junior Rugby
- ☞ Observe the Guidance
- ☞ Report ANY Abuse – To the Club & To NLD Ref Soc.