

SUSPENSION OF INDIVIDUALS PENDING AN INVESTIGATION- GUIDANCE FOR CLUBS

If you have a coach, volunteer or member of staff involved in a Child Protection case you should take the following points into consideration to safeguard children and other young people at your organisation and the interests of all individuals involved are respected and addressed.

1. If you have not already done so - contact the Lead Officer at the BCU for advice. They will be able to confirm the action being taken by the BCU and what action you should take. (Contact details below)
2. If the person has been suspended from the BCU pending an investigation then it is important to stress that this is simply the action we take – it is a neutral act to protect all parties and does in no way indicate guilt.
3. All attempts should be made to keep information confidential so that it does not prejudice any investigations and in order to respect the rights of all individuals involved. Information should be shared on a “need to know” basis in the interests of safeguarding a child or children.
4. Refer the individual who is the subject of allegations/concerns to the BCU Child Protection Support Officer if they have not already contacted them. (Contact details below).
5. We suggest that in the interests of all parties the individual is precluded from the club pending the outcome of the investigation. This can be dealt with more diplomatically than barring an individual from certain areas or times when juniors are at the club and can reduce speculation by others. You should, if the occasion arises, challenge any club “gossip” on the subject.
6. During the period of the investigation and exclusion from club activities it is important to keep in touch with the individual and ensure that they are kept informed of the process and the support that is available to them through the BCU Child Protection Support Officer.
7. Your actions following the investigation will be determined by the outcome of this and of any disciplinary process. There may be support to integrate the individual back into the club or additional training needs to be addressed.

Contact Details:

BCU Lead Officer Safeguarding and Protecting Children
Mike Devlin - Tel 0845 370 9503
BCU Child Protection Support Officer
Nigel Timmins – Tel 01768 480 084