



VALLANCE COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Child Protection Policy Statement

ABUSE OF CHILDREN

- The primary reason behind the creation of VCSA in 1999 was to use sporting activities to empower young people. We offer young people in Tower hamlets and surrounding areas of East London an increased quality of life, achievement potential, self-efficacy, self esteem and accessible positive role models and mentors, in whom they can safely put their trust. We also aim to form a partnership with parents to maximise the support available to young people at a critical time in their development. These aims run in conjunction and complement our aim to open up opportunities for young people to engage in sporting activities on a regular basis and to increase their potential to aspire and excel in the sport(s) of their choice.
- **VCSA** has adopted the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Guidelines and "Policy & Procedures on Safeguarding the Welfare of Children", together with guidance relating to Enhanced Police Checks. These documents have been created specifically with the voluntary sector in mind. A copy will be given to VCSA employees, volunteers or members, who have regular contact with young people who are under eighteen.
- **VCSA** is committed to ensuring that all employees, volunteers and members, who come into contact with children under eighteen, have a copy of the Guidelines mentioned above. They will receive training on following the procedures as recommended in the above. They will receive training following the procedures as recommended in the LBTH document as part of an induction. To ensure best practice they will be asked for two references and Police Checks will be arranged by VCSA for anyone who has regular contact with young players under the age of eighteen or is likely to come into contact with under eighteen year olds.
- **VCSA** is an organisation that is committed to the support, development and care of young people. We take our Duty of Care for all those under the age of eighteen very seriously. Any employee, volunteer or member who comes into regular contact with vulnerable young players and anyone under eighteen, should always be vigilant and if they feel any concern about a young person(s) for any reason should report this to the designated person responsible for taking the matter forward, as in the procedure outlined on p.9 of this document. It should also be said that any concerns felt about what would suggest inappropriate behaviour towards vulnerable young players and members of VCSA should be aired as soon as possible to VCSA's nominated child protection co-ordinator.

PREVENTION & CARE OF INJURY

- **VCSA** has an insurance to cover Group Personal Accident and Public Liability from a company that has a specialised football relating the National Youth Football Scheme and other sporting clubs catering to 5-25 year old players.
- **All Sports Workers** and volunteers must undergo the recognised first aid course, which is appropriate to their sport, including the Treatment and Management of Injury.
- **During Training Sessions and Matches** there must be a designated individual who is equipped to deliver first aid and will be overall responsible to ensure that all correct procedures are followed in the case of injury. There must also be easy access to a mobile phone.
- **A First Aid Kit**, which is acceptable within the Football/Cricket Association Guidelines, should always be readily available at any training session or match. It should be checked before the commencement of any activity.
- **Checks** must be made before every training session and match to ensure that there is a good access to all entries and exits.
- **Checks** must be made to ensure that all Fire Exits have clear access before and during any session.

BEFORE ANY TRAINING/MATCH, THE PITCH MUST BE THOROUGHLY SCRUTINISED TO ENSURE THAT:

- there is no broken glass, other sharp objects, any obstacles likely to cause a trip or fall, slippery patches – i.e. oil, rotten/greasy food, etc., likely to cause a skid/fall.
- there are no animal faeces likely to cause a skid/fall or infection.
- all kit and equipment must be inspected before any sports session to ensure that all is in good working order and does not threaten any danger.
- a thorough inspection of equipment must be carried out to ensure that it is up to date and safe and that the kit is in good repair and working order. Equipment and kit are renewed/replaced regularly at least annually or when in need of replacement.
- no spectators, including parents, are on the pitch during training or matches
- all match venues have adequate changing facilities, with separate changing rooms and showers for both children and adults of both genders.
- Parents/guardians “drop off & pick up” children on time and that they are all delivered home safely.

TRANSPORT & TRAVEL

- VCSA has become a member of Tower Hamlets Community Transport. A number of volunteers & coaches have passed their Midas Driving Tests in order to drive players to away fixtures.
- On all journeys there are always two adults on board; one to drive and one to supervise and to ensure the safety of players and that they stay in their seats and wear a safety belt in transit. If it is a long journey, both adults must have passed their Midas Driving Test.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS' ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Signed Consent Forms must be obtained from parents/guardians of all young players under the age of eighteen, together with any essential medical details, before they join VCSA. These will be checked regularly with the parents/guardians.
- Signed consent forms will also be required from parents/guardians before any long journeys or trips.