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**BLACKHEATH**  
**1858 RUGBY**

## CHILDRENS AND YOUNG PERSONS, SAFEGUARDING

27<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Coaches/Managers Blackheath Football Club,

With the resumption of supervised sports, it is a good time to remind all those involved with children and young people at our Club what to do if they have a safeguarding concern about a player.

A concern can take many forms. Possible signs of abuse may include a usually happy player becoming withdrawn or aggressive, a player being frequently dirty, hungry or not having the right clothes for the weather, a player having unexplained cuts or bruises, a player displaying sexualised language or behaviour inappropriate for their age, a player being afraid of parents/carers or seeming unwilling to go home. This is not an exhaustive list and it is important that any concern about a child is quickly reported. Any concerns should be reported to me, the Club Safeguarding Officer. If you can't get hold of me, you can either contact the Kent RFU Safeguarding Officer (Owen Smith - [safeguarding@kent-rugby.org](mailto:safeguarding@kent-rugby.org)) or the National RFU Safeguarding Team (02088316655). In this event it is important that I am informed as soon as possible.

If a child tells you that they are being abused in some way, there are a few simple guidelines it's important to follow.

- Listen carefully to the child and keep an open mind - don't simply dismiss the concern.
- Don't ask leading questions or push for more details.
- Reassure the child that they were right to tell you but do not promise that you can keep what they tell you confidential.
- Explain that you will need to pass on the information to someone who can help resolve the situation.
- Don't make promises about the situation that you can't keep.
- Write down what you were told as soon as you can.

This disclosure should then be reported to me as soon as possible, or to the Kent RFU Safeguarding Officer.

If you should you have any questions about safeguarding, please do get in touch.

Many thanks for your support.

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Club Safeguarding Officer  
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