

## Management of child safeguarding cases in sport: Policy summary

### Introduction

The NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) assists respective Sports Council funded sports organisations to achieve an agreed set of Standards which provide frameworks for safeguarding the welfare of children and young people involved in sport.

A key requirement of the Standards is for sports organisations to have procedures and systems in place to effectively manage complaints and concerns about the welfare of children and young people. These are collectively referred to as the case management process.

The CPSU, in partnership with Sport Resolutions UK, established a Case Strategy Group (CSG) to provide sports organisations with additional guidance and resources to support their case management functions in respect of the Standards. The main outputs of the CSG are an overarching Case Management Policy, the formation of a National Safeguarding Panel, and supporting resources and training.

### General principles of case management

- 1 Where, in a sport context, any issue arises in relation to child protection and safeguarding, the welfare of children and young people shall be the paramount consideration.
- 2 Any investigation or inquiry is to proceed upon the basis that the primary consideration will be a determination of the risk posed to children and young people.
- 3 Unless the determination finds no, or an insignificant, risk, effective steps **must** be taken to manage or reduce the risk.
- 4 Individuals about whom there are concerns should be treated fairly and honestly and should be provided with support throughout the process

### Investigation

- 5 Any investigation or inquiry must be sensitive to the welfare of the children and young people **during its processes** and, at all times, hold central the need to keep the interests of children and young people as paramount.
- 6 Where issues other than risk to children and young people are under consideration in any investigation or inquiry, such issues must remain subordinate to the requirement to determine the risk posed to children and young people.



## Risk assessment

- 7 The assessment of risk involves consideration of the actual or potential harm that an individual poses to children and young people in sport.
- 8 The assessment of risk does not involve making a finding based upon either the criminal or civil standards of proof (i.e. certainty or “the balance of probabilities”). The assessment requires a defensible decision that a risk does or does not exist and, where it does, a determination of the extent of such risk.
- 9 Save in exceptional cases, the assessment will not require the production of a formal risk assessment report.

## Risk management

- 10 The steps taken to address any perceived risk to children and young people must have regard to the nature and extent of the risk as well as to any particular and relevant aspects of the sport in question and, in the light of this, must seek to ensure that such steps will be effective.
- 11 In cases where the perceived risk is low, and no criminal or disciplinary charge could be made out, it may be nonetheless necessary to impose stringent restrictions on an individual or remove his/her ability to participate in the sport in question.

