

# Guidance for WR Volunteers Working with Children

Volunteers providing coaching and support to children/young people must be DBS vetted. WR will help you make this happen. Until you are, you cannot volunteer to coach or support children other than your own in an organised WR activity.

WR is committed to provide an environment where children are welcomed, feel safe and have their views and feelings taken into consideration.

## **This means:**

- Welcoming all children and parents/carers to activities.
- Being a friendly professional
- Ensuring sport is fun and enjoyable, and that fair play is promoted
- Treating all children equally, with respect and dignity
- Being an excellent role model at all times – this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol during coaching and being mindful of behaviour
- Always putting the welfare of children first, by encouraging a constructive environment where healthy competition, skill development, fun and achievement are promoted in equal measures
- Always working in an open environment (for example, avoiding being alone with a child, and encouraging open communication with no secrets)
- Having clear interpersonal boundaries, so children know how to behave and what is expected of them
- Not tolerating acts of aggression
- Recognising the needs and abilities of children, avoiding too much training or competition and not pushing them against their will
- Giving positive and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Encouraging children to assess their performance based on their own mastery of skills, knowledge and love of the game, rather than on whether they won or lost.
- Not engaging in any physical contact required for coaching purposes without first getting the agreement of the child or young person
- Knowing how to access the personal records of any child you are coaching or supporting in case of an emergency
- Finding out if any children you are coaching have medical conditions that could be aggravated during playing or training
- Keeping a written record any time a child is injured in your care, along with details of any treatment provided
- If a child becomes injured and the injury requires the child to be carried to a place of treatment, always seek support from another adult before moving the child. Any first aid administered should be in the presence of another adult or in open view of others

If any of the following incidents take place or you observe them, you **MUST** report them to the WR Welfare Officer and make a written note of the event and inform parents where appropriate if:

- You accidentally hurt a child
- A child seems distressed in any manner
- A child acts in a sexually inappropriate manner
- A child states or indicates they are unhappy with something you or another person has done during the course of a WR activity.