

Appendix F

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE, BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Abuse

Somebody may abuse or neglect a young person by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Young people may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Young people can be abused by adults or other young people. There is growing evidence to suggest that peer abuse is an increasing concern for young people. The effects of abuse can be so damaging and if untreated, they may follow a person into adulthood. For example, a person who has been abused as a young person may find it difficult or impossible to maintain stable, trusting relationships, become involved with drugs or prostitution, attempt suicide or even abuse a young person in the future.

There are four main forms of abuse:

Neglect – where adults fail to meet a young person’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the young person’s health or development (e.g. failure to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a young person from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.) It may also include refusal to give young people love, affection and attention.

Neglect in golf could include a PGA Professional or coach not ensuring young people were safe, exposing them to undue cold, heat or to unnecessary risk of injury.

Physical abuse – where someone physically hurts or injures a young person by hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, biting, or scalding, suffocating, drowning or otherwise causing physical harm to a young person. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a young person whom they are looking after e.g. factitious illness by proxy or Munchausen’s syndrome by proxy.

Examples of physical abuse in Golf may be when the nature and intensity of training and competition exceeds the capacity of the young person’s immature and growing body; where drugs are used to enhance performance or delay puberty.

Sexual abuse – where girls and boys are abused by adults or other young people (both male and female) who use young people to meet their own sexual needs. This could include full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, anal intercourse and fondling. Showing young people pornographic material (books, videos, DVDs pictures) is also a form of sexual abuse.

In Golf, coaching techniques which involve physical contact with young people could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. The power of the PGA Pro/coach over young performers, if misused, may also lead to abusive situations developing.

Emotional abuse – is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a young person such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the young person’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to young people that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on young people. It may involve causing young people to feel frightened or in danger by being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted which may make the young person very nervous and withdrawn. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a young person.

Emotional abuse in Golf may occur if young people are subjected to constant criticism, name-calling, sarcasm, bullying, racism or unrealistic pressure to perform to high expectations consistently.

The above definitions are adapted from Department of Health (1999) Working Together to Safeguard Children – A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Bullying

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. It can take many forms, the three main types are

- physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft)
- verbal (e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name calling)
- emotional (e.g. isolating an individual from the activities and social acceptance of the peer group).

Harassment

An essential characteristic of harassment is that it is unwanted by the recipient. It is for individuals to determine what behaviour is acceptable to them and what they regard as offensive. It is the unwanted nature of the conduct that distinguishes harassment from acceptable behaviour.