

## **CHILD ABUSE RECOGNITION AND REPORTING**

As a youth sports coach, you are required to know how to recognize and report child abuse. Determining when to report suspected child abuse or neglect can be difficult. Below are some commonly accepted physical and behavioral indicators of abuse and/or neglect. *Please note that the physical and behavioral indicators listed are not the only indicators of child abuse and neglect and if present, do not always mean a child is being abused or neglected.*

### **Physical Neglect- Physical Indicators**

- Unattended medical needs
- Lack of supervision
- Regular signs of hunger, inappropriate dress, poor hygiene
- Distended stomach, emaciated
- Significant weight change

### **Physical Neglect- Behavioral Indicators**

- Regularly displays fatigue or listlessness, falls asleep in class
- Steals/hoards food, begs from teammates
- Reports that no caretaker is at home

### **Physical Abuse- Physical Indicators**

- Unexplained bruises (in various stages of healing), welts, loop marks
- Adult/human bite marks
- Bald Spots or missing clumps of hair
- Unexplained burns/scalds
- Unexplained fractures, skin lacerations/punctures or abrasions
- Swollen lips/chipped teeth
- Linea/parallel marks on cheeks and temple area
- Crescent-shaped bruising
- Puncture wounds
- Bruising behind the ears

### **Physical Abuse- Behavioral Indicators**

- Self-destructive/self-mutilation
- Withdrawn and/or aggressive-behavior extremes
- Uncomfortable/skittish with physical contact
- Arrives to practice late or stays late as if afraid to be at home

- Chronic runaway (adolescents)
- Complains of soreness or moves uncomfortably
- Wears clothing inappropriate to weather, to cover body
- Lack of impulse control (e.g. inappropriate outbursts).

### **Sexual Abuse- Physical Indicators**

- Pain or itching in the genital area
- Bruises or bleeding in the genital area
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Frequent urinary or yeast infections
- Extreme or sudden weight change
- Pregnancy under 12 years of age

### **Sexual Abuse- Behavioral Indicators**

- Withdrawal, chronic depression
- Sexual behaviors or references that are unusual for the child's age
- Seductive or promiscuous behavior
- Poor self-esteem, self-devaluation, lack of confidence
- Suicide attempts (especially adolescents)
- Hysteria, lack of emotional control

## **HOW TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE**

- If you suspect that the child is in IMMEDIATE danger, call 9-1-1
- Please notify the field director at 616-283-4962 and they will assist you in notifying Child Protective Services