

**BYE-LAW 6
CHILD PROTECTION & PROCEDURES**

6.1 CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- 6.1.1 The Camanachd Association accepts that it is the responsibility of every adult to protect children from abuse. All children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse and discrimination and to be treated equally regardless of age, gender, racial origin, culture, religious belief, language, disability or sexual identity.
- 6.1.2 Child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse can arouse strong emotions in those facing such a situation and it is important to understand these feelings and not allow them to interfere with our judgement about any action to take.
- 6.1.3 Abuse can occur within many situations including the home, school and the sporting environment. Some individuals will actively seek employment or voluntary work with children in order to harm them. Everyone working in shinty - in a paid or voluntary capacity, together with those working in affiliated associations - has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of children and preventing their abuse.
- 6.1.4 A coach, instructor, teacher or volunteer may have regular contact with children and be an important link in identifying cases where a child needs protection. When establishing guidelines to protect children, it is important to recognise that the organisation has both a moral and legal obligation to ensure it provides the highest possible standard of care.
- 6.1.5 The Camanachd Association recognises that it has a responsibility to:
- a) Safeguard and promote the interests and well-being of children with whom it is working;
 - b) Take all reasonable practical steps to protect them from harm, discrimination, coercion, degrading treatment; and
 - c) Respect their rights, wishes and feelings. Child protection policies and procedures can:
 - d) Offer safeguards to the children with whom we work, and to our members of staff, volunteers and those in affiliated organisations.
 - e) Help maintain high standards of professionalism and practice within the Camanachd Association and affiliated organisations.
- 6.1.6 To help prevent abuse of children, all individuals, clubs and affiliated associations are held, by virtue of their membership of the Association, to have committed themselves to the implementation of this policy. It is the responsibility of club officials to ensure that everyone involved in the care of children is aware of and has access to, this policy and accompanying procedures and guidance that the Association will publish, and knows what to do if there are concerns about abuse.

6.2 PRINCIPLES

- 6.2.1 This policy, and accompanying procedures and guidance, are based on the following

principles:

- a) The child's welfare is paramount.
- b) All children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- c) All suspicious and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously; and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- d) Anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purpose of this document.

6.2.2 Working in partnership with children and their parents/carers is essential for the protection of the children. The Camanachd Association recognises the statutory responsibility of the social services department to ensure the welfare of children and is committed to working together with the local agencies and Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) and to complying with their procedures.

6.3 THE RIGHTS OF THE YOUNG SHINTY PLAYER

- 6.3.1 The right to enjoy themselves both in practice and in competition with a variety of activities which are both fun and instructional.
- 6.3.2 The right to play like a child and not to be treated like an adult, either on or off the playing field.
- 6.3.3 The right to take part in competitions with rules adapted to their level of ability at each stage of their psychomotor development.
- 6.3.4 The right to play in conditions of the greatest possible safety.
- 6.3.5 The right to participate in all aspects of the game.
- 6.3.6 The right to be trained by experienced and qualified coaches.
- 6.3.7 The right to be able to gain experience for themselves, by resolving themselves the problems which arise both in practice and in official competition.
- 6.3.8 The right to be treated with dignity both by their coach and their opponents and team mates.
- 6.3.9 The right to play with children their own age who have similar chances of winning.
- 6.3.10 The right not to be a champion.

6.4 PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE

- 6.4.1 The Camanachd Association shall publish child protection procedures and guidance and shall ensure implementation by organising appropriate training programmes and adopting good child protection management practices.

6.5 REVIEW

6.5.1 This policy and accompanying procedures and guidance will be regularly monitored and reviewed:

- a) In accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children or any changes within the Camanachd Association.
- b) Following any issues of concerns raised about the protection of children within the game of shinty.
- c) In all other circumstances, at least annually.

6.5.2 This monitoring and review process will be carried out by the ACPC in collaboration with the CCPCs, who will put forward recommendations for development to the Association.