



Sexual Abuse Awareness Training



Course Overview

- SBSRA Policy
- Screening
- Child Protection
- Reporting Abuse
- Suspecting Abuse
- Guidelines



SBSRA Policy

It is a policy of South Bay Soccer Referee Association (SBSRA) to neither tolerate or allow sexual harassment by any member of the Association. Upon receiving any credible complaint of sexual harassment, the board will take appropriate action utilizing the Association's Disciplinary process which in the case of a credible sexual harassment complaint will involve notification to the appropriate authorities.

All SBSRA members must pass a background check by "Live Scan" before they are assigned to any Youth Soccer matches.

SBSRA provides a standard Sexual Abuse Awareness Training package to all SBSRA members to insure all its members are aware of how to deal with issues involving sexual abuse.

The training is located on the SBSRA web-site which is accessible to all SBSRA members.

Per SBSRA policy, All SBSRA members are to review this training material before providing their availability for match assignments. A SBSRA referee should not provide his or her availability until he or she has reviewed this material and understands the content. Questions regarding the content should be brought to the attention of a SBSRA Board member.



Screening

SBSRA and Cal South requires all Referees who Referee Youth Matches (U18 and below) to complete the “Live Scan” process





Why do Screening?

“Montgomery County police arrested a longtime soccer coach on Thursday and charged him with inappropriate contact with a juvenile six months ago.”

This is just one of many issues which occur every year



Child Protection

The Child Protection Acts (1993, 1997) enabled screening of those who work with children and mandated reporting of suspected child abuse.





Child Abuse is Against the Law

- In almost all states, legislation asks any adult who suspects abuse to file a claim.
- There are mandated reporting of suspected abuse in many states – there are legal reporting standards.
- Abuse crosses all socioeconomic, ethnic, cultural, occupational, religious and age groups.
- Abuses can occur between players.



Reporting Abuse

Reporting is generally required when a child is:

- physically injured by other than accidental means, subjected to willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment, or **sexually abused** or exploited.

Many states have penalties for failing to report.



Sexual Abuse



Frequently hidden: harming an individual through inappropriate sexual contact, lewd behavior, or exploitation.



Sexual Abuse

- Legally required to report any form of sexual abuse or exploitation.
- Lewd comments, sexual harassment or any type of inappropriate physical contact.
- Minors must be supervised to prevent minor-on-minor abuse. 20% of reported cases involve minors.



Suspecting Abuse

- If abuse is suspected, notify the appropriate authority.
- If the abuse is considered life threatening, contact local law enforcement immediately.
- Remember reporting is a means of helping; let professional agencies investigate. Do not confront alleged abuser.
- Youth volunteers should be encouraged to inform an adult if told a “secret” about abuse.



Protection Guidelines

In order to prevent misunderstandings, physical contact with children should be:

- In response to the need of the child only
- With the child's permission
- Respectful of any hesitation
- Careful to avoid private parts
- In the open, never in private
- Brief in duration
- Age and developmentally appropriate



Protection Guidelines

- Adults should avoid being alone with a child including transporting a child in a car.
- When it is necessary to speak privately with a child, select a spot out of earshot but within sight of others.
- Set boundaries.
- Maintain adult privacy.
- Respect the privacy of children.
- Hug from the side.
- No sexual jokes, comments.
- No corporal punishment.



Quiz....

Which of the following is **not** true?

- a) Adults should set and maintain appropriate boundaries with children.
- b) It is recommended for adults to “friend” minors on Facebook.
- c) Sexual Abuse can occur between players of the same age.



USSF Match Report

A USSF Match Report is required whenever there is a serious incident involving participants, activities, facilities, property, **or indications of abuse.**

