

What is child abuse?

(Based on the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' March 2010)

Applies equally to vulnerable Adults

Physical abuse may involve adults or other children causing physical harm:

- In sport situations, physical abuse might also occur when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs,.

- Neglect in a sailing situation might occur if an instructor or coach fails to ensure that children are safe, or exposes them to undue cold or risk of injury

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Sexual abuse. Sexual abuse involves an individual forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening

- Sport situations which involve physical contact (eg. supporting or guiding children) could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. Abusive situations may also occur if adults misuse their power over young people.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

- emotional abuse in sport might include situations where parents or coaches subject children to constant criticism, bullying, or pressure to perform at a level that the child cannot realistically be expected to achieve.

Bullying (including cyberbullying) may be seen as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated or sustained over a period of time.

If you are concerned about a child:

Consult your organisation's designated Child Protection/Welfare Officer or the person in charge. . It is NOT their responsibility to decide if abuse is taking place, BUT it is their responsibility to act on your concerns.