



### **Introduction**

The issue of transporting children has become very sensitive for sports leaders and parents. Many coaches argue that their club could not operate without the goodwill of volunteers and parents ensuring that children are returned home or transported to events in a private car.

(\*The word 'children' should be taken to mean all persons under the age of 18 years")

### **Why the need for a Transport Policy?**

#### **Statement taken from the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) website:**

*"The CPSU encourages coaches not to take children on journeys alone in their car. This view has been taken by the CPSU from knowledge gained of how those who want to harm children have developed. The vast majority of coaches and volunteers will help out through their genuine desire to see children or their particular sport develop. Unfortunately we must face the reality that a minority of others will join a sports club to gain access to children and create an air of acceptability about their role, justifying their close contact with children.*

*Though those who want to abuse children may find it more difficult to do so in a group setting, such as a leisure centre or sports pitch, they could use this time to gain the trust of not only the young person but also other adults. Developing credibility is an essential part of any abusers "grooming process", not only grooming the child, but also grooming other coaches or parents i.e. becoming the best volunteer.*

*The last stage to enable someone to offend against a child is viewed as grooming the environment i.e. creating a justifiable reason for getting the child alone. There have in the past been many opportunities within the sport setting for those who wish to abuse children to isolate a particular child. Thankfully Sports Governing Bodies are reducing this possibility in most coaching sessions, but the issue of transport can still leave children vulnerable."*

### **Best Practice procedures**

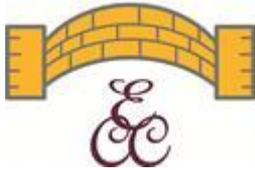
- Edenbridge CC hereby notifies parents/carers that parents/carers are responsible for the safe delivery and collection of their child to and from matches and or training.
- Edenbridge CC will distribute information as soon as practicable relating to all planned away fixtures or competitions to provide parents/carers with an opportunity to make appropriate arrangements. This will be done through the



Club website, the printed and distributed fixture cards and/or through junior Team Manager and/or coaching staff.

- Coaches and Club staff will be responsible for the children in their care when on the Club premises or on arrival at opponents' cricket grounds.
- It is not the responsibility of the Coach or Team Manager to transport, or arrange to transport, the children to and from the Club or match.
- Team Managers, Coaches or Edenbridge CC itself, are not liable or responsible for any private transportation arrangements organised by parents/carers with, other family members, friends or even other club members in connection with getting their child to and or from Club fixtures or training sessions.
- Parents/Carers are advised that when arranging lifts for their children with third parties, it is their responsibility to check that appropriate and up to date insurances and licensing documentation is held by the owner/driver of the vehicle.
- Edenbridge CC must receive permission from parents/carers for children to participate in all competitions and away fixtures/events. This permission is by written consent as contained on the Edenbridge CC Junior Member Consent Form.
- It is the Edenbridge CC policy that players do not leave the playing facility whether at home or away without notifying the Coach or Team Manager. It is also the policy of the Club that parents/carers do not take their children away before the ground is tidied and the Coach is able to release the players in a controlled way.
- Parents/carers who knowingly are going to be late delivering or collecting their children must take reasonable steps to inform the Coach/Team Manager as soon as possible, so suitable arrangements can be made. In the case of no such communication the Coach or Team Manager will take reasonable steps to contact the parent/carer or alternative adult contact (as detailed on the Junior Member Consent Form) to make alternative arrangements.
- Parents/guardians should have a contact number for the club/coach to inform them of emergencies and possible late collections.

### **Best Practice**



It is clearly best practice to avoid transporting a child alone but Edenbridge CC recognise that in some circumstances it is an essential part of a child's participation in training and competition. If all alternatives have been exhausted and an adult has to transport a child there are a number of safety measures that need to be in place to minimise the risk:

- The driver, like all coaches/volunteers who have access to children, should hold a current ECB vetting check (DBS Check)
- Parents should be informed of the person who will be transporting their child, the reasons why and how long the journey will take
- A person other than the planned driver should talk to the child about transport arrangements to check they are comfortable about the plans
- The driver must ensure that they have insurance to carry others, particularly if they are in a paid position or claiming expenses
- The driver should attempt to have more than one child in the car
- When dropping children off after a match or training session coaches / volunteers should alternate which child is dropped off last. Ideally two children would be left off at an agreed point i.e. one of their family homes
- The person who drops children home should be alternated; this would reduce the risk of any one individual from always being alone with the child
- The driver should have a point of contact and mobile phone should they break down
- Ensure that children are aware of their rights and they have someone to turn to or report any concerns they may have. If a culture of safety is created within the Club then the child is more likely to talk to another person if they are feeling uncomfortable about a situation
- Children should wear appropriate seatbelts at all times.

The following is guidance on the seatbelt law introduced in September 2006; for more information please visit <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/road-safety>:

- Children must use an appropriate child restraint or seatbelt when travelling in a car or goods vehicle
- Depending on their weight, children under 3 years, must use a baby seat or a child seat



- Those under 12 years and 135cm tall must use the right type of booster chair or booster cushion
- Older children should use an adult seatbelt
- Drivers are responsible for making sure that children under 14 years are safely strapped in at all times
- Parents and guardians of children up to 135cms (or about 12 years old) will have to make sure their children are always safely strapped into the right type of seat or booster
- Passengers on minibuses will be required to wear seat belts where fitted and the driver will be responsible for making sure that children under 14 years use their seatbelts. If seatbelts are fitted on a bus, passengers must use them. The operator will be responsible for letting people know that they must use seat belts.

### **Acknowledgements**

The above policy has been developed from:

- ECB 'Safe Hands' Crickets Policy for Safeguarding Children
- The Child Protection in Sport Unit's Guidance on transporting a child to and from competitions and or training.