

Safe Clubs Safe Kids

# Responding to Concerns



Be a Kaitiaki for our Tamariki



# Abusive Behaviour

Anything that indicates abuse of a child or a young person may be taking place must be reported.

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### Observation

Any disclosures or indicators of abuse whether physical, sexual, neglect or emotional, should be escalated to you Safe Kids Advisor or Oranga Tamariki.

### Non-Accidental Injuries

Non-accidental injuries you may see include bruises, welts, cuts, abrasions rope burns, broken bones.

- These are more likely on the buttocks, trunk, genitals, ears, neck, top of shoulders and back of hands.
- Bruising caused by a weapon is more likely to be an unusual shape and the bruise will have hard edges.
- Non-accidental burns – particularly on soles of feet, hands, buttocks. Burns that are particular shape e.g cigarette burns or from an element.
- Immersion burns where part of a child's body has been placed in hot water.

### Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Witnessing sexual touching between an adult and child/young person and child.
- Adults/young people engaging in non-touching sexual behaviour with children or younger people, including online or verbal sexual behaviours.
- Insisting on hugging, touching tickling, kissing, wrestling or holding a child/young person especially when this attention is not wanted.

### Inappropriate Physical Contact

Physical contact is inappropriate if it:

- Includes touching the groin, genital area, buttocks, breasts or any part of the body that may cause distress or embarrassment.
- Frightens, distresses or embarrasses a child.
- Destroys their trust.
- Occurs in a private place.

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### Action

For emergencies, for example where there is imminent risk or violence is happening now, act immediately by calling Police on **111** or Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for children on **0508 326 459**. Afterwards notify your Safe Kids Advisor.

For all other cases act as soon as possible by reporting to your SK Advisor, completing the brief reporting template, and lodging your concern within 48 hours to the Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children.

### Oranga Tamariki

Ministry for Children contact details

Phone: **0508 326 459** (24/7)

Email: **contact@ot.govt.nz**



### Abusive Behaviour

Anything that indicates abuse of a child or young person may be taking place.



### Unsafe Behaviour

Concerning behaviour within rugby that puts children and young people at risk and must not be ignored.



### Healthy Behaviour

Behaviour that is not cause for concern.

# Unsafe Behaviour

**Concerning behaviour within rugby that puts children and young people at risk and must not be ignored.**



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## Observation

- Side-line behaviour that is persistently aggressive but not directed at a single player.
- Training that harms a child physically-inappropriate to age and ability of the child, encouraging crash diets or dehydration to lose weight.
- Lack of appropriate boundaries in teams. For example, children weighing in naked, being in showers with adults.
- Creating opportunities to get alone time with a child/young person.
- Buying children or young people gifts or food or giving them money for no apparent reason.
- Asking questions about the sexuality of a child/young person and talking about their developing body. This might include inappropriate sexual behaviour in front of children or using sexual names for a child like 'sexy' even in a joking way.
- Not respecting a child/young person's privacy when changing, using bathrooms etc.
- Accidental injuries that need to be reported and reviewed as part of a health and safety.
- Isolation of a child/young person socially or physically.

The more of these signs an adult or older child is displaying the more assertive you need to be in addressing them.



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## Action

For Orange signals, act within one week. It is a good idea to call these and discuss with your SK Advisor to make sure you aren't missing anything. Orange signals can usually be dealt with at a Club/Union Level without reporting externally, though if in doubt contact Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for children. This may include addressing the individual and/or taking a club-wide approach.

### Addressing the individual

For example: To keep everyone safe we avoid one on one time with kids. I'll come with you to hurry them up in the changing room next time. Remind people of your club rules and guidelines. Interrupt and question any concerning behaviour "You sounds like you're getting stressed with the kids, can I help you run this session so we can keep it positive".

### Club-Wide approach

Use your newsletters to remind people of the rules. For example: Part of our Safe Clubs Safe Kids programme is following

the 'rule of two', adults avoiding 1:1 time with kids helps keep everyone safe.

Use your JAB or coach briefings to clear up any confusion about rules for people. For example: For any overnight tournaments planned please make sure you and your team have a copy of the travel and overnight stay protocols. These protocols keep everyone safe and help relieve some of the stress for those running events.

Hang signs in changing rooms etc. that remind people of the rules. For example: Adult supervision of children should be done in pairs.

Hang signs that target children in your clubs encouraging to talk with an adult if they feel unsafe.

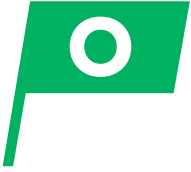
Monitor that the issue is resolved, this is best done by your JAB or other club official.

If you require further clarification, you can contact Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children to Discuss situation.



# Healthy Behaviour

## Behaviour that is not cause for concern.



### Observation

Correction of children's behaviour that doesn't cross into abusive behaviour and doesn't endanger the child in anyway.

### Appropriate Physical Contact

Physical contact is appropriate if it:

- Is used to assist in skill development.
- Is required for the child's safety.
- Occurs with the player's understanding and permission.
- Is for the child's benefit, not adult gratification.
- Occurs in an open environment.

For example, high-fiving children on their hand as long as the child is comfortable with it.

Physical contact between children and young people is not a cause for concern where it reflects:

- Normal curiosity about their own and other children's bodies that are age and stage appropriate.
- Young people flirting or developing mutual relationships with others of a similar age and stage.

Normal curiosity is usually characterized by being spontaneous, mutual, doesn't involve force, secrecy or pressure being used and is not compulsive or at the exclusion of other activities.



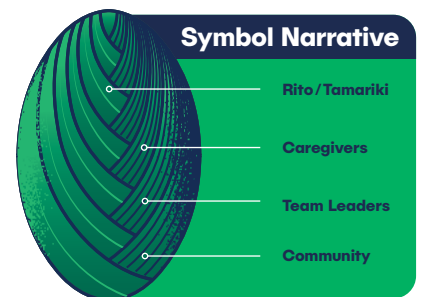
### Action

Praise positive behaviour you see in your team and keep modelling positive communication yourself. The key way kids learn is by watching adults, you can make a positive difference.

If you require further clarification, you can contact Oranga Tamariki – Ministry of Children to discuss the situation.

For more information visit [nzrugby.co.nz/safekids](https://nzrugby.co.nz/safekids)

Sport NZ has good online modules that you can do to learn more: [sportnz.org.nz/integrity/education-and-training/](https://sportnz.org.nz/integrity/education-and-training/)



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