

Third in a 4 Part Series:

Warning Signs of Abuse / Molestation

With some forms of abuse, there may be physical indicators. With physical abuse there may be bruises, welts, broken bones. With sexual abuse venereal diseases, genital swelling/soreness, difficulty sitting or walking, pain or itching when urinating or defecating, stomach aches, pain/itching in genital area, and frequently unexplained sore throats. But most often the effects of sexual abuse are less obvious. For example, sudden shifts in behavior or attitudes when outgoing child suddenly builds a protected, closed wall or a generally happy child becomes aggressive and angry or a trusting child becomes fearful may be an indication of abuse. In sports, this can show up as losing interest or wanting to drop out of sports or a sudden decline in ability or functions.

Please note that no indicators or symptoms are absolute. Many of these could be indicators of problems other than child abuse. However, if some of these things are going on, consider them to be a red flag. One difficulty is that some signs are ambiguous. Children may respond in different ways and some may show no sign at all. Some indicators include:

- ~ Disclosure by child. Most children won't just come out and say they have been abused, but instead, may hint at it.
- ~ Observations, complaints, concerns, or allegations about league volunteers.
- ~ Attitudes/behaviors expressed on the part of an adult that may be associated with inappropriate or abusive behavior (racist, poor sense of athlete development, raging temper, extremely controlling, jealous, hypersensitive, poor sexual boundaries, bullying, intimidating manner, unrealistic or inappropriate training practices and risks, etc.)
- ~ Unexplained/unlikely explanation of injuries.
- ~ Extreme fear of a league volunteer;
- ~ Extreme low self-esteem, self worth;
- ~ A child's attachment to a coach/staff to the point of isolation from others;



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~ A coach/staff with an interest beyond caring concerns, special interest in a child (time, gifts, attention, obsession, unrealistic expectations)

~ A child's desire to drop out without a clear explanation, or without one that makes sense;

~ A child that misses a lot of practices or games with suspicious explanations or excuses.

Despite increased sensitivity to abuse, there is still a tendency to blame the victims instead of holding the person(s) accountable who:

- ~ lost their temper;
- ~ got a little out of control;
- ~ were just having a dispute;
- ~ misinterpreted the touch;
- ~ is really a wonderful person; etc.

Listen to what the athlete is saying.

Policies on child abuse/molestation should be distributed to all parents at the start of each season in the form of a flyer such as our Child Abuse/Molestation Protection Program. You can see the entire program for FREE at www.SadlerSports.com/riskmanagement

Who do you know in your league or other local leagues who would need this information?

Remember, even if YOUR league is not involved if another local kids league hits the paper YOU ARE INVOLVED you'll be looked at by the public and the media with different eyes don't let it happen

Protecting your league, yourself, your fellow officers, directors, volunteers and your kids is only possible when you make a referral let me know who you know, so I can protect them the way I want to protect you.



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Email me a few names and well BOTH look like heroes

If You're Not Absolutely CERTAIN You're Adequately Protected & Saving Your Organization THE MAXIMUM Amount Of Money Then Call Me At 803-622-7370 Or Email Me Direct At sport@sadlersports.com or visit our website at www.SadlerSports.com

Sincerely,

Salinda Howell
Asst. to John Sadler

John Sadler:

*Pres. CEO SadlerSports.com
Sports Insurance Specialist
Sports Risk Manager
Licensed Attorney
Founder of National Sports Lawsuit
Protection Association*

Sadler & Company - The National Administrator Of:

SODA National Amateur Sports Insurance Program

