

Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for our members and will not tolerate any sexual abuse or sexual misconduct toward or by any member.

Definition of Abuse*: Any intentional harm or mistreatment to a child under 18 years old is considered child abuse. Child abuse takes many forms, which often occur at the same time.

- **Physical abuse.** Physical child abuse occurs when a child is purposely physically injured or put at risk of harm by another person.
- **Sexual abuse.** Child sexual abuse is any sexual activity with a child. This can involve sexual contact, such as intentional sexual touching, oral-genital contact or intercourse. This can also involve noncontact sexual abuse of a child, such as exposing a child to sexual activity or pornography; observing or filming a child in a sexual manner; sexual harassment of a child; or prostitution of a child, including sex trafficking.
- **Emotional abuse.** Emotional child abuse means injuring a child's self-esteem or emotional well-being. It includes verbal and emotional assault — such as continually belittling or berating a child — as well as isolating, ignoring or rejecting a child.
- **Medical abuse.** Medical child abuse occurs when someone gives false information about illness in a child that requires medical attention, putting the child at risk of injury and unnecessary medical care.
- **Neglect.** Child neglect is failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, clean living conditions, affection, supervision, education, or dental or medical care.

In many cases, child abuse is done by someone the child knows and trusts — often a parent or other relative. If you suspect child abuse, report the abuse to the proper authorities.

Sexual abuse and sexual misconduct shall be interpreted to mean any sexual interaction between a child and another person (including another child) in a position of power over the child. Specific acts may include, but are not limited to inappropriate physical contact, viewing pornography, exposing oneself to another person, enticing others to expose themselves, inappropriate language, or any other behavior that is a violation of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura Code of Conduct or Employee Handbook.

Staff shall not:

- engage in conversations with members about sexual matters. If a member initiates a

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conversation about sexual matters, staff shall limit the conversation to the child's immediate concerns and shall immediately notify their supervisor and provide a written incident report within 24 hours.

- engage in off-site activities with members. Such interactions may include, but are not limited to field trips, meetings, birthday parties and communications via phone, text, online interactions and/or social media.

All persons are prohibited from the access, display, production, possession or distribution of pornography on Club premises or equipment.

Any suspected sexual abuse or misconduct will be treated as a serious matter and documented by a written incident report within 24 hours. When applicable, the incident will be reported to the appropriate authorities. The Chief Executive Officer shall provide written directives to maintain the confidentiality of incident reports.

**<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/child-abuse>*

Please note that this is a living document and may be updated from time to time as needed.