



## MODULE 2 – SECTION G

# GROOMING



Grooming refers to an individual working to create an **emotional connection** with a child to **gain their trust** with the distinct **purpose of sexual abuse or exploitation**.

Grooming can be undertaken by both males and females and can occur both **online and in the real world**. It can be undertaken by an individual the child or young person **knows or by a stranger**. It is impossible to know who may have an ulterior motive with a child so it is vital that we are **always on the lookout**. The person may be someone you have **known and trusted for years or it may be someone who is new to the club**.



LET'S  
KEEP THIS  
OUR LITTLE  
SECRET

**MANY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WILL NOT UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN GROOMED AND THAT IT CONSTITUTES ABUSE**

ABUSERS GENERALLY INVEST A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT INTO GAINING THE CHILD'S TRUST. THIS EFFORT IS REGULARLY ALSO SPENT GAINING THE TRUST OF THE FAMILY OF THE CHILD:

-  Offering advice and understanding
-  Buying gifts, such as equipment
-  Giving the child attention
-  Using their professional position or reputation
-  Taking them on trips, outings or holidays

**ONCE THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED TRUST, GROOMERS WILL EXPLOIT THE RELATIONSHIP BY:**

-  Isolating the child from friends or family
-  Making the child feel dependent on them
-  Using power or control to make the child believe they have no choice but to do what they want
-  Introducing 'secrets' to control or frighten the child
-  Blackmailing the child, or making them feel ashamed or guilty, to stop them from telling anyone about the abuse

**IT IS VERY EASY TO SEE HOW A PERSON IN A POSITION OF POWER COULD EASILY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR POSITION AND OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO ALLOW FOR GROOMING**

IT IS VITAL THAT EVERYONE WHO IS INVOLVED WITH THE SPORT AT ANY LEVEL IS AWARE AND ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR BEHAVIOUR THAT IS INAPPROPRIATE, EVEN IF IT SEEMS THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A REASON TO SUSPECT THE GROOMER.

**THIS IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HOW ALLOWING AN EDUCATOR OR STAFF MEMBER TO CHAT ONLINE WITH LEARNERS IS POOR PRACTICE,**

BECAUSE MOST CONVERSATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE, BUT HOW WOULD YOU KNOW WHICH ONES AREN'T.



**A COACH ADOPTING A WIN-AT-ALL-COSTS ATTITUDE**

- Teachers putting undue pressure on students
- Officials putting undue pressure on athletes



**THE MOST ACCEPTED PREVENTION AGAINST GROOMING IS TO ENSURE:**

Respect is part of all conversations within the school, irrelevant of who the conversation is between and irrelevant of what the conversation is about. Even conversation about ill-discipline must be handled respectfully.



### KEY MESSAGE

Grooming can have serious short-term and long-term effects on children and young people. It can damage trust, affect mental health and wellbeing, and in extreme cases can lead to self-harm or other harmful behaviours. We all have a responsibility to recognise grooming, respond appropriately and report concerns to keep everyone safe.



RECOGNISE

RESPOND

REPORT

PROTECT

