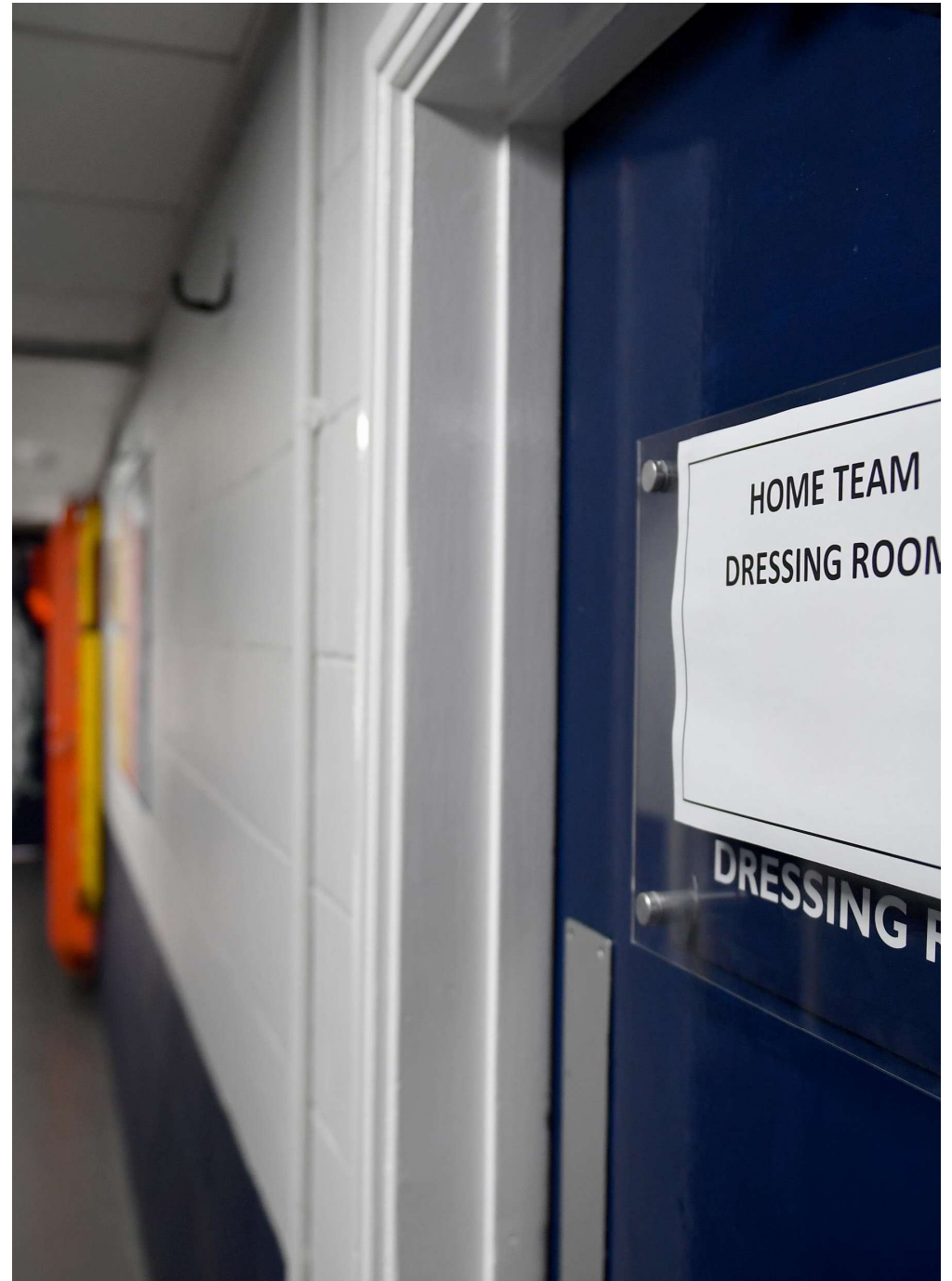


Scenario 3.

It is a Tuesday night, and you arrive early at the club for training.

On entering the club house, you hear a voice which is coming from the changing room.

As you approach, you notice the changing room door is mostly closed, with just a small gap. From inside, you hear a voice, likely a player from the Under 16 team, protesting: “Stop it, don’t touch me!”



Scenario 3. Facilitator notes – good practice examples

Prompt questions

Tackle.

- If you hear a child say something like **“Stop it, don’t touch me!”**, you must take action, even if you’re unsure what’s happening.
- If you feel safe, and it’s appropriate to do so, go into the changing room immediately. You might want to announce yourself: **“Hi, it’s [your name], just coming in to check everything’s okay.”** Or it might be more appropriate to go in as you would normally do.
- You don’t need to know exactly what’s going on to step in. The priority is to make sure the child is safe.
- If you’re not the right person to go in or do not feel safe, get someone appropriate immediately, but don’t leave the situation unaddressed.

What factors might make it not appropriate to enter the changing room? How else could you intervene in these circumstances?

What should you do if the child or someone else says everything is fine, but you still feel unsure?

Why is it better to remove the child from the situation and report, even if it turns out to be nothing?

Why should we avoid trying to “get to the bottom of it” ourselves?

What are the reporting options at clubs?

Assist.

- If it’s safe and appropriate, speak directly and gently to the young person: **“Are you okay?”** or **“Do you want to step outside with me?”**
- It may be that you find there was nothing to worry about (e.g. siblings messing around) but if there’s any doubt at all, take the child out of the situation and stay with them somewhere safe and quiet.
- You don’t need to investigate, just make sure they’re safe and supported. Reassure them: **“I’m here to help. I just want to make sure everything’s okay.”**
- Be aware that someone causing harm might try to downplay or dismiss the situation. That doesn’t mean nothing happened.
- Do not ask lots of questions. Let the child speak if they want to, but focus on being calm and supportive.
- Ensure the child knows who they can talk to if they need to: **“If you’re worried about anything, speak to an adult you trust.”**

Pass.

- If you are left with any doubt at all, you should report what happened to the **Club Welfare Officer** or **Designated Safeguarding Lead**. Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. If in doubt, report it.
- If a situation is urgent and an individual cannot report at their club, league or County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer, they can contact the NSPCC Helpline for expert advice and support on **0800 800 5000**.
- If it is an emergency because a child or children are at immediate risk, individuals should call the Police or Children’s Social Care in their area.
- Write down exactly what you heard, saw, and did, including the time, place, and who was present. Stick to the facts, avoid assumptions.
- Don’t delay or try to decide whether the concern is valid. If there is any doubt, report it. It’s not your job to work out what happened, it’s your job to act on concern and pass it on to the right people.