



## **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy – Issue 3**

Shepton Mallet Bowls and Tennis Club has considered its responsibilities to the young people participating in various activities under its remit very carefully. It has produced the following **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy** and underpinning procedures in order to set out the standards it wishes to uphold in providing activities for and safeguarding the welfare of children in its care.

### **1. Policy Statement**

The Club acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all young people (defined as those under 18) involved in activities under the remit of the Club. All young people have a right to protection, and to have their particular needs taken into account.

The Club will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all young people involved with the Club through the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the Management Committee of the Club. It is the responsibility of all adults within the Club to assist the Management Committee in this endeavour.

### **2. Policy Aims**

- To provide young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the Club and also help them to enjoy their experience in the Club's various activities.
- To reassure parents that their children will receive the best practicable care possible whilst participating in activities within the club.
- To provide support to Club members and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues and to fulfil their roles effectively.

### **3. Principles**

- The welfare of young people is paramount.
- All young people, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin and religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff and volunteers working in the Club have a responsibility to report concerns to our Community and Welfare Officer, Anne-Marie Stevens.
- Adults – Club members, volunteers, coaches, referees and members will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of young people by the Club and the national bodies to which we are affiliated.
- Individuals will receive support through education and training, coordinated by the Club's Development Officer, Janet Ross, to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare or child protection issues that may come to light.

- The Club will work in partnership with young people and parents to review and implement child protection and safeguarding procedures.
- The Club's policy and procedures are based on the above principles and UK and international legislation and government guidance and take the following into consideration:
- The Children Act 1989 and 2004.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document.

#### **4. Responsibilities and Communication**

- The Club's Child Protection Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants.
- The Policy will be reviewed every three years by the Management Committee, and amended as appropriate. Guidance from affiliated national bodies will be sought as part of the review process.
- The Management Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including pursuing any appropriate disciplinary action through the defined channels.
- The Club's Community and Welfare Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, passing information to the Management Committee in the first instance who will inform national officers of affiliated bodies if concerns are confirmed.
- Parents have a responsibility to work together with the Club in implementing procedures and providing their children with the necessary information to keep themselves safe.

#### **5. Monitoring and review**

- This policy will be reviewed one year after being introduced and then every three years or in response to significant new legislation.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with the affiliated national bodies..

This policy was reviewed and amended 01Mar21

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