

Wolverhampton & District Chess League

Child Protection Policy Statement

The Wolverhampton & District Chess League (WDCL) organises team and individual chess competitions in Wolverhampton and the surrounding district. The WDCL seeks to promote and develop chess. It acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people aged up to 18 years and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and young people are paramount in all circumstances as enshrined in the Children Act 1989. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or identity, or socioeconomic background, all children

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of chess in a safe and child centred environment
- are protected from harm and abuse whilst participating in chess or outside of the activity.

It also aims to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

The WDCL acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. As part of our safeguarding policy the WDCL will

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- value, listen to and respect children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- make clear who the designated Lead for Safeguarding is and his/her role.
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
- share concerns with agencies who need to know, involving parents and children appropriately.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted to its clubs, and followed as far as is practicable for everyone involved in WDCL organised events, (currently zero), including its officers. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Specific WDCL Responsibilities will be devolved as follows:-

(A) Requirements of the WDCL League Management:

1. The responsibilities of the Lead for Safeguarding will lie with the Lead for Safeguarding to be elected at the AGM.
2. WDCL will reimburse any reasonable expenses for the official in 1 above who requires Child Safeguarding Training.

(B) The WDCL recommends that for each Club:

1. It shall have a Child Protection Policy, based on the ECF Child Protection Policy (ECFCPP)* as far as it is practicable; but which also takes account of the policies of the management of the premises in which it meets.

**[www.englishchess.org.uk/about/ecfdocuments/safeguardingchildrenpolicy]*

2. It shall appoint and have on its Committee a Safeguarding Officer (SO). He/she shall read and be familiar with the ECFCPP.

3. It shall inform the WDCL Secretary of the identity of its S.O before the start of each season and any subsequent change, together with his/her contact information.

4. It shall notify its member(s) of the requirement promptly to report any relevant incident to the Club's SO. If the SO is absent on the day the incident occurs, reporting shall be either to a previously designated alternative, or to the SO as soon as practicable.

5. It shall make available, within the clubroom, a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and the contact details of their SO

6. It shall ensure that a child or young person travelling to an away match or event is accompanied by a parent/ carer or person acting in loco parentis. The parent/ carer or person acting in loco parentis shall be responsible for the welfare of the child or young person at all times whilst travelling or at the match or event. The Home Club or Organiser of the event shall be entitled to enquire whom is acting as the parent/ carer or person acting in loco parentis before play commences or at any time whilst the child or young person is at the match or event.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

Children Act 1989

United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991

Data Protection Act 1998

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Children Act 2004

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children including: Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015).

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed annually, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board or the WDCL
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

The WDCL Child Protection Policy is approved by the Annual General Meeting of the WDCL

Signed:

Date:

Name and Designation of Signatory:

Date of last Review: / /

Signature:

(On behalf of the WDCL AGM)