



Ball Hockey UK

Child Protection Policy Statement

Scope

Ball Hockey UK (BHUK) acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring that safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Ball Hockey UK and aims :

- to protect children and young people from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the all-encompassing principles that guide our approach to child protection.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of the sport in a safe and child-centred environment,
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in activities provided by Ball Hockey UK.

Ball Hockey UK 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.

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind,
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in the United Kingdom. A summary of the key legislation is available from nspcc.org.uk/learning.

Supporting Documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents.

As part of our safeguarding policy Ball Hockey UK will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of 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,
- 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.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved with Ball Hockey UK. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the organisation.

We Recognise That:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse,
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues,
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We Will Seek To Keep Children & Young People Safe By:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them,
- appointing a safeguarding officer,
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers,
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers are aware of, and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently,
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made,

- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance,
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions,
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern,
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately,
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately,
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have measures in place to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise,
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place,
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance,
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Monitoring & Review

We are committed to reviewing our policies and good practice every three years or sooner if there are any changes in legislation or government guidance or as a result of any other significant change or event.

Policy Owner	Ball Hockey UK
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