

Safeguarding Policy for Norton Canes Chess Club

Introduction

Norton Canes Chess Club recognises the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people under the age of 18 and vulnerable adults who participate in club activities. We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment where everyone feels respected, valued, and protected from harm.

Policy Statement

Norton Canes Chess Club is dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults involved in our activities. We adhere to the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of our operations.

Our safeguarding policy is informed by relevant legislation, including but not limited to the Children Act 1989 and 2004, Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, and Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. We also adhere to the guidelines outlined by the English Chess Federation (ECF) and any other relevant governing bodies.

Roles and Responsibilities

Club Officials

All officials, including committee members, coaches, and volunteers, have a responsibility to familiarise themselves with this safeguarding policy and follow its guidelines.

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

[Insert Name] serves as the designated safeguarding officer for Norton Canes Chess Club. They are responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, providing advice and support to members, and handling any safeguarding concerns or disclosures appropriately.

Parents/Guardians

Parents or guardians are encouraged to familiarise themselves with this safeguarding policy and support its implementation. They should also report any concerns they have regarding the welfare of their child or another participant to the DSO.

Parental Responsibility

Parents or guardians are ultimately responsible for the supervision and behaviour of their children during club activities. While Norton Canes Chess Club endeavours to provide a safe and supervised environment during club sessions, we cannot assume responsibility for unsupervised children.

Code of Conduct

We have established a code of conduct for all volunteers, members, and parents/guardians involved in our activities. This code outlines expected behaviour, boundaries, and responsibilities concerning safeguarding. Breaches of the code of conduct will be taken seriously and may result in disciplinary action.

Training and Awareness

We provide annual training and resources to members and members to raise awareness of safeguarding issues and promote best practices. This includes training on recognising signs of abuse, responding to disclosures, and understanding the club's safeguarding procedures.

Risk Assessment

We conduct regular risk assessments of our activities and premises to identify and address any potential risks to the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Measures are implemented to minimise these risks effectively.

Responding to Concerns

Any safeguarding concerns or disclosures will be taken seriously and handled in line with our safeguarding procedures. This includes reporting concerns to the DSO, cooperating with relevant authorities, and providing support to those involved.

Confidentiality

We respect the confidentiality of all safeguarding concerns and disclosures, sharing information only on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with data protection laws.

Review and Monitoring

This safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually or as necessary to ensure it remains up-to-date and effective. Any changes will be communicated to volunteers, members, and parents/guardians accordingly.

Conclusion:

Norton Canes Chess Club is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all members, including children, young people, and vulnerable adults. By implementing and adhering to this safeguarding policy, we aim to promote the welfare and well-being of everyone involved in our activities.

Date of Policy Approval: [Insert Date]

Next Review Date: [Insert Date]