Isle of Wight Cricket Board – Safeguarding Children Policy Statement

The Isle of Wight Cricket Boards (IWCB) Safeguarding Policy encompasses all aspects of IOW Cricket, including Talent Pathway, IOW Women’s and Girls’ Cricket, CAG Cricket and Community Programmes. IWCB is committed to ensuring all Children (aged under 18) participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience.

We do this by:

1) Putting things in place

2) Having the Right People in Place

Putting things in place:

* We recognising all children participating in cricket (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have the right to have fun and be protected from harm in a safe environment.
* We ensure individuals working within cricket at, or for, the IWCB provide a welcoming, safe, and fun experience for children
* We provide an environment where the views of children, parents and volunteers are sought and welcomed on a range of issues. This will help us create an environment where people have the opportunity to voice any concerns (about possible suspected child abuse/neglect, and/or about poor practice) to the County Safeguarding Officer
* We Adopt and implement the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) “Safe Hands – Cricket’s Policy for Safeguarding Children”
* We ensure all individuals working within cricket at, or for, the IWCB are recruited and appointed in accordance with ECB guidelines and relevant legislation

Having the Right People in Place:

* The IWCB have an appointed County Safeguarding Officer. They will be required to attend all current and future training modules required by the ECB, so they have the necessary skills to undertake their role effectively.
* The IWCB will provide all Safeguarding Officers, including those working at Clubs and within Areas with the training required by the ECB, so they have the necessary skills to undertake their roles effectively.
* The IWCB will ensure all people who work in cricket at, or for, IWCB (such as staff, officials, volunteers, team managers, coaches etc) understand the “Safe Hands Policy” applies to them according to their level of contact with children in cricket.
* The IWCB will ensure all individuals working within cricket at, or for, IWCB are recruited and appointed in accordance with ECB guidelines and relevant legislation
* The IWCB will ensure all individuals working within cricket at, or for, IWCB are provided with support, through education and training, so they are aware of, and can adhere to, good practice and code of conduct guidelines defined by the ECB, and IWCB

The County Safeguarding Officer acts as:

* The first point of contact for the IWCB staff and volunteers
* The first point of contact for parents and children of IOW squad members
* The first point of contact for IWCB staff and volunteers
* The first point of contact for IOW CAG parents and players
* The first point of contact for all Club Safeguarding Officers and Safeguarding Officers working in the Areas
* A local source of procedural advice for the IWCB, its committee and members and affiliated Clubs and Areas
* The main point of contact within the IWCB for the ECB Child Protection Team, and
* The main point of contact within the IWCB for relevant external agencies in connection with child protection and safeguarding

What to do if you have a concern or someone raises concerns with you?

* It is not your responsibility to decide whether or not a child has been abused. It is however everyone's responsibility to respond to and report concerns.
* **If you are concerned someone is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999 straight away. Where you suspect that a crime is being committed, you must involve the police.**
* If you have concerns or you are told about possible or alleged abuse, poor practice or wider welfare issues you must report this to the Club Safeguarding Officer or County Safeguarding Officer.
* When raising your concern with the Club Safeguarding Officer or to the County Safeguarding Officer, remember Making Safeguarding Personal. It is good practice to seek the child’s views on what they would like to happen next and to inform the child you will be passing on your concern and
* It is important when considering your concern that you also ensure you keep the person informed about any decisions and action taken about them and always consider their needs and wishes.
* Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

The County Safeguarding Officer can be contacted by email *cso@isleofwightcricket.co.uk*

The ECB Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0207 432 1200 or e mail *safeguarding@ecb.co.uk*

Date completed- January 2023

Completed by- Alex Barton