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**PENWORTHAM BADMINTON CLUB - SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY**

1. **Introduction**
   1. Penwortham Badminton Club is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all young people to play badminton. We accept our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all young people1 and protect them from poor practice, abuse and bullying.
   2. Penwortham Badminton Club Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Badminton Policy and procedures apply to all club members. Everyone in the club has a responsibility to safeguard and protect young people within our club, to act appropriately, and to report concerns.
2. **Principles**
   1. The guidance given in the procedures is based on the following principles:
      1. All young people, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, social status, transgender status and sexual orientation have the right to be protected from abuse and to enjoy all aspects of badminton in an enjoyable and safe environment.
      2. The safety and welfare of young people is paramount.
      3. The rights, dignity and worth of all young people should always be respected.
      4. All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with Penwortham Badminton Club’s Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Policy and procedures.
      5. It is everyone’s responsibility to act appropriately and report concerns at the earliest opportunity.
      6. Penwortham Badminton Club recognises the role and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding young people and fully complies with the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards.2
      7. Working in partnership with parents, carers and young people themselves is essential for the safeguarding and protection of young people.

*1 Young people are those aged under 18 years.*

2 Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards (LSCBs) are the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in each local area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the locality. The core membership of LSCBs is set out in the Children Act 2004, and includes local authorities, health bodies, the police and others. The objective of LSCBs is to coordinate and to ensure the effectiveness of their member agencies in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

1. **Guidance and Legislation**
   1. The practices and procedures within this policy and documentation are based on the principles contained within UK and international legislation and Government guidance and have been developed to complement Local Safeguarding Children Boards’ procedures and take the following into consideration:

* Every Child Matters 2003
* The Children Acts 1989 and 2004
* The Protection of Children Act 1999
* The Police Act 1997
* Criminal Justices and Court Services Act 2000
* The Data Protection Act 1994 and 1998
* “Caring for the Young and Vulnerable” - Home Office guidance for preventing the Abuse of Trust 1999
* ‘What to do if you are worried a child is being abused’ – Department Of Health 2006
* Working Together to Safeguard Children - HM Government 2015
* The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
* The Human Rights Act 1998
* The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
* The Equality Act 2010
* The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

1. **Roles and Responsibilities**
   1. Penwortham Badminton Club is committed to having:
      1. A clear commitment by the committee to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children’s welfare.
      2. A four-person sub-committee, led by a Safeguarding Officer that effectively deals with issues and manages concerns.
      3. A clear line of accountability within the club on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.
      4. Appropriate checks on and training for Safeguarding Officers.
      5. Arrangements to ensure that the two Safeguarding Officers undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities effectively and keep this up to date by refresher training at regular intervals.
      6. A culture of listening to and engaging in dialogue with young people– seeking their views in ways appropriate to their age and understanding and taking account of those both in individual decisions.
      7. Procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse.
      8. A code of conduct that all members are expected to follow.
      9. A system that all concerns and reported cases are managed in line with Badminton England policy and procedures, this includes effective reporting to national level when appropriate.
      10. A system that all committee members and club members are aware of their responsibility for safeguarding and protecting young people in the club.
      11. Implementation of a policy of best practice and adhere to the Badminton England Codes of Conduct.
      12. A close working partnership with parents/carers and young people within the club.
2. **Practice never to be sanctioned**
   1. Best practice with young people must be observed by all adults in the club and the following practice must be avoided:
      1. Spending time alone with young people away from others.
      2. Transporting a young person in a car alone.
      3. Inviting or allowing a young person to stay at their home.
      4. Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games with young people.
      5. Allowing or engaging in any form of inappropriate physical touching or sexual contact or behaviour.
      6. Using or allowing young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
      7. Making sexually suggestive comments to a young person, even in fun.
      8. Allowing allegations made by a young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
      9. Doing things of a personal nature for a young person that they can do for themselves, unless they have been requested to do so by the parents/carer. This does not preclude anyone attending to an injured/ill young person or rendering first aid.
      10. Departing from the Badminton club or agreed rendezvous point before the safe dispersal of all young people is complete.
      11. Causing an individual to lose self-esteem by embarrassing, humiliating or undermining the individual.
      12. Treating some young people more favourably than others.
      13. Creating a dependent relationship between themselves and a young person, appropriate boundaries must be maintained, see Section 8. Positions of Trust.
      14. Private texts, social network messages and emails without parental consent or knowledge. Please go through parents to contact the young person.

This list is not exhaustive, see section 9 regarding relevant convictions.

1. **Consequences of Inappropriate Behaviour with young people**
   1. Adults who do not observe best practice with young people will be in breach of the Penwortham Badminton Club’s Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Policy and / or the Penwortham Badminton Club’s Codes of Conduct and may find that they are investigated by Penwortham Badminton Club’s Safeguarding Committee. Where appropriate they will have disciplinary action taken against them.
2. **Whistle blowing**
   1. All suspicions and allegations must be taken seriously and appropriately reported. It is recognised that strong emotions can be aroused particularly in cases where any form of abuse or poor practice is suspected or where there is loyalty, sometimes misplaced, to a club member or someone who is known to you.
   2. Individuals may not express concerns because they fear harassment or victimisation. In these circumstances it is important to understand these feelings but not to allow them to interfere with the need to ensure that concerns are reported appropriately. Not acting is not an option and in extreme circumstances non-reporting of a concern may be considered a disciplinary issue.
   3. Penwortham Badminton Club is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, honesty and accountability. In line with that commitment, all members are encouraged to come forward and voice any concerns. It is recognised that certain cases will have to proceed on a confidential basis.
   4. If there is a concern about the welfare of a child, or with regard to the behaviour of an adult towards a young person or young person to young person, it is important that you share your concerns with Penwortham Badminton Club’s Safeguarding Officer/Deputy Officer.
   5. All information received will be treated in confidence and only shared on a ‘need to know’ basis with those individuals who will be able to manage and resolve the situation. In extreme cases it may be necessary to seek advice, or inform the statutory agencies e.g. The Police or Children’s Social Care.
   6. All concerns will be taken seriously and managed accordingly within the Safeguarding and Protecting Young People.
   7. Where an individual feels unable to report concerns internally they should contact the NSPCC Helpline [0808 800 5000], Lancashire Safeguarding (0300 123 6720 or out of hours 0300 123 6722), the Police or Children’s Social Services.
3. **Positions of Trust**
   1. All adults are in a position of trust which has been invested in them by the parents. This relationship can be described as one in which the adult is in a position of power and influence by virtue of their position.
   2. Sexual activity or touching by an adult with a child under the age of 16 years is unlawful, even where there is apparent consent from the child. Any sexual relationship between an adult in a position of trust within the badminton setting and a young person over 16 years of age [consensual or otherwise] is contrary to the Safeguarding and Protecting Young People and disciplinary action will be taken.
   3. In the sport of badminton it is recognised that there are certain boundaries between adult club members and the young player which must not be crossed. The relationship is no different to that between a teacher and the young people in their care, it is a position of trust.
   4. Adults must not encourage a physical or emotionally dependant relationship to develop between the person in a position of trust and the young person in their care.
4. **Relevant conduct / convictions**
   1. It shall be a ground for action to be taken under this Policy where a member of Penwortham Badminton Club is found to have harmed the safety and/or welfare of a young person, or whose conduct is deemed to pose an actual or potential risk of harm to the safety and/or welfare of a young person or young people in the club.
5. **Further Information:**

A copy of this policy can be found in the safeguarding folder which is kept in the shuttles box. It can also be found online at: www.penworthambadminton.com

Any further information or clarification on this policy can be requested from the Safeguarding Officers either in person or via the following email address: Penworthamsafeguarding@yahoo.com