Medway Chess Club – Safeguarding Statement and Reporting Procedures.

We aim to make the chess environment a safe, inclusive, and supported activity for all.  This includes:

* Safeguarding juniors
* Safeguarding vulnerable adults
* Promoting safeguarding regulations and good practice to all members.
* Ensuring that female participants are not subject to inappropriate behaviour and supporting them accordingly.

Medway Chess Club is affiliated to The English Chess Federation and formally adopts their safeguarding policies and procedures.

**The Safeguarding Officer’s for Medway Chess Club are:**

**Jedda Taylor –** **jedda.taylor@btinternet.com** **- Mobile 07391196656**

**LawrenceTutt – Mobile - 07500536570**

ECF policies and procedures can be found online at:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Safeguarding-Children-Policy.pdf>

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/guidelines-on-treatment-of-chess-players-with-impairments/>

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/anti-bullying-policy/>

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Safe-Play.pdf>

If you are unable to access these policies, please speak to a member of the committee, or named safeguarding officers who will provide you with a copy.

**Reporting Procedures**

It is important that there should be no delay in contacting either the Social Services or the police if someone thinks a crime may have been committed. Any individual can do this, 24 hours/day, it does not have to be the Safeguarding Officers.

If it is not thought that a crime has been committed but there is concern for a child’s welfare then the issue should be reported to the safeguarding officers within 24 hours as per below.

**If the issue arises during a Medway Chess event** report the concerns to the Medway Chess designated safeguarding officers who will contact the local Children’s Social Care Services (Social Services) for advice or to make a referral in the first instance and follow up with a written report within 24 hours.

If the safeguarding officers are not available the organiser or the individual raising the concern must do this.

**If the issue arises at any other time or event** report the concerns to the safeguarding officers who will contact the local Children’s Social Care Services (Social Services) for advice or to make a referral in the first instance and follow up with a written report within 24 hours.

If the safeguarding officers are not available the organiser or the individual raising the concern must do this.

Medway Chess’s safeguarding officers may in addition contact the ECF safeguarding officer for advice; however, this must not delay contacting Social Services.

**If there is no one else available to help, contact the police 101.**

**Confidentiality**

Children and young people have a right to confidentiality unless Medway Chess Club considers they could be at risk of abuse and/or harm. The legal principle is that the “welfare of the child is paramount”.

Privacy and confidentiality should be respected where possible but if doing this leaves a child at risk of harm then the child’s safety has to come first. Legally, it is perfectly acceptable to share information if someone is worried about the safety of a child but only people who need to know should be told.

Medway Chess Club acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people aged up to 18 years and vulnerable adults.

It is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice in accordance to the ECF Safeguarding policy for both children and adults. .

The English Chess Federation 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 members:

• 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.

Medway Chess Club 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.

In adopting the ECF’s safeguarding policy, Medway Chess Club aim to:

• 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 and Safeguarding Officer is/are and their roles.

• 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 and are mandatory for everyone involved at Medway Chess Club, including staff, officers, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of Medway Chess Club.

Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

**Legal framework**

These policies, which Medway Chess Club is affiliated with and adopts, have been drawn up by the ECF 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 (2018 and 2019).

Monitoring Medway Chess Club’s Safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually by the safeguarding officers and reported to the Medway Chess Club Committee annually.

Date of last Review: 11/09/2024

Date of next Review 11/09/2025

Signature:

(On behalf of Medway Chess Club)