



LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy

Safeguarding is the process of protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and ensuring they are free from harm, abuse and neglect. All young people have the right to be safe and enjoy their hockey. We all have a duty to safeguard and protect young people from harm.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

1. Introduction

1.1 Leicestershire and Rutland Hockey Association (LRHA) through their affiliation to England Hockey (EH) believes that all young people have the right to be safe and enjoy their involvement in hockey, and adopt the policies and procedures of EH. We accept a responsibility to promote the welfare of young people and protect them from harm, in partnership with the hockey clubs in our association.

1.2 As an association we expect all participants and anyone involved in hockey in any capacity, including all coaches, umpires, referees, players and other officials, parents / legal guardians and spectators at hockey events, to uphold our safeguarding policy.

1.3 In England a child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. Child protection guidance points out that even if a child has reached 16 years of age and is: • living independently • in further education • a member of the armed forces • in hospital; or • in custody in the secure estate they are still legally children and should be given the same protection and entitlements as any other child (Department for Education, 2018).

1.4 For the purpose of this policy Safeguarding is defined as 'the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm' NSPCC. Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child



protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child (the Reporting procedures).

1.5 This Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey Policy (the “Safeguarding Policy”) applies to all those involved in hockey within our Association. This Safeguarding Policy works alongside our Code of Ethics and Behaviour. Adherence to the Safeguarding Policy will be managed through our reporting procedures.

2. Purpose of Policy

2.1 This Policy has been produced to promote the welfare of young people and protect them from harm or risk of harm, this includes physical and mental wellbeing. The Policy sets out the commitments made by LRHS with regard to safeguarding young people and certain general principles and specific guidance that must be followed by those associated with LRHA.

2.2 Members of our Association must be aware of and comply with our Safeguarding Policy, Safe Recruitment Policy, Reporting Procedures and Code of Ethics and Behaviour.

3. Practices and procedures

3.1 The practices, procedures, principles and guidance within this Safeguarding Policy and associated reporting procedures are based on the principles contained within the Children’s Act 1989 & 2004 and the Government guidance ‘Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023.

3.2 The practice, procedures, principles and guidance within the Safe Recruitment Policy are based on the principles of The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and the requirements of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in relation to recruitment of those in regulated activity.

4. As an Association affiliated to England Hockey we are required to:

4.1 Adopt England Hockey’s Safeguarding Policy and associated guidance.



4.2 Have at least one named Welfare Officer, whose contact details are easily accessible to all club members and who has attended a 'Time to Listen' safeguarding workshop in the last 3 years.

4.3 Follow England Hockey's recruitment guidance by ensuring that their club/association is registered on England Hockey's DBS system, have at least one active DBS Verifier and that the club/association actively use the DBS system to complete DBS checks on the appropriate individuals.

4.4 Ensure that all coaches/ individuals who work regularly with young people have appropriate safeguarding training.

4.5 Understand and follow England Hockey's reporting procedures and disseminate this information to their members.

4.6 Provide an environment that is positive, safe, engaging and inclusive. The welfare and wellbeing of young people must be paramount.

4.7 Understand that safeguarding young people is everyone's responsibility, not just the Welfare Officer.

4.8 Follow England Hockey reporting procedures where there are concerns relating to the safety or welfare of young people.

4.9 Seek advice from England Hockey Ethics and Welfare Team when dealing with issues or concerns that are more complex than first perceived.

5. General Principles. The following general principles regarding safeguarding and protecting young people will be applied by Leicestershire and Rutland Hockey Association.

5.1 The safety and welfare of young people is paramount.

5.2 The rights, dignity and worth of all young people must always be respected.

5.3 The views and opinions of young people are sought, considered and integrated into all aspects of hockey.



5.4 All young people, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race (including ethnic origin, nationality and colour), religion or belief, sex (gender), sexual orientation, marital and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity have the right to be protected from harm.

5.5 It is recognised that some young people have additional vulnerability, which may be due to disability, language, sexual orientation, culture or for the fact that they perform in an elite environment. It is therefore important to raise awareness of additional risks and address particular needs, as required.

5.6 The creation of a safe culture and environment will allow young people to thrive within hockey and feel supported should they need to raise any concerns. In 'Working together to Safeguard Children 2023' children say they need:

- Vigilance:** to have adults notice when things are troubling them
- Understanding and action:** to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon
- Stability:** to help them develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them
- Respect:** to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not
- Information and engagement:** to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans
- Explanation:** to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not been met with a positive response.
- Support:** to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family
- Advocacy:** to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views
- Protection:** to be protected from all forms of abuse and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if a refugee

5.7 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, but it is the responsibility of child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place. It is everyone's responsibility in hockey to report concerns.

5.8 Statutory agencies have a role in safeguarding young people and information should be shared with them as appropriate.

5.9 In order to safeguard all young people, The Hockey Family must work in partnership to implement policies, respond to concerns and deliver best practice.

5.10 For clarity, the Safeguarding Policies and any related procedures and good practice relating to the safeguarding of young people in hockey need to be applied



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both in relation to activities for young people specifically and where young people may be involved within the adult game, for example, where players or umpires under 18 years of age are incorporated into adult team hockey. This applies in all hockey environments, on and pitch.

17th October 2024