



## **SAFE-GUARDING POLICY STATEMENT**

### **1. Policy Statement**

The Welsh Pétanque Association (WPA) recognises that it has a duty of care to safeguard all children & vulnerable persons involved in the sport at all levels. The WPA's duties in this respect are fully outlined in its Safe-Guarding Practice and Procedures, which has been adopted by its Executive Committee.

The following is a brief summary of the aims and guidelines contained within that policy.

### **2. Policy Aims**

The WPA aims to safeguard all children & vulnerable persons, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity.

To achieve this aim the WPA will take all reasonable steps to create an environment within the sport that protects children & vulnerable persons from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and that respects their rights, wishes and feelings.

The WPA aims to ensure that all coaches and any others who have contact with children and vulnerable persons should adhere to a code of conduct that protects both parties.

The WPA has a designated Safe-Guarding Officer, who is responsible for ensuring that the above aims are met and who acts as a point of contact for all members who may wish to discuss a child protection concern.

### **3. Good Practice**

All WPA coaches and others who work with children & vulnerable persons will be recruited with regard to their suitability for that responsibility and will receive training and guidance with regard to best practice and the procedures to follow in the case of concerns.

All WPA coaches are required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check as part of their training and to follow the Coaches Charter when taking responsibility for children and vulnerable persons.

It is essential that all suspicions and/or allegations of abuse should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. The WPA Safe-Guarding Officer should be immediately informed of any incident or concern, however minor.

Safe-guarding works best in an atmosphere of openness, where good working partnerships and effective communication prevail - with parents, with carers, with colleagues and with children & vulnerable persons themselves.

#### **4. Safe-Guarding Officer**

The WPA's current Safe-Guarding Officer is Gemma Foster who can be contacted by members at any time on 07742 263403.

WPA Executive

February 2020

Review Date: February 2022