



# **Welsh Pétanque Association**

## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY**

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# Welsh Pétanque Association

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY



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### 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 implementation of this Policy within the WPA, is the responsibility of the National President.

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

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## 2. Terminology and Definitions

**Carer:** A carer is someone who has the responsibility for providing or arranging care for someone else who, because of long term illness or disability or age, is not able to care for him or herself.

**Children:** A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The term 'children' therefore means 'children and young people' throughout.

**Child protection:** The particular activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

**Disabled:** The Equality Act 2010 (which replaced the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)) defines a person as having a disability 'if he has a physical or mental impairment which has substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day to day activities'.

**Regional Safeguarding Boards (RSB):** These are the six multi-agency strategic boards of relevant partner agencies set up across Wales designed to protect children and adults at risk of, abuse or neglect and to prevent those children and adults from becoming at risk of abuse or neglect.

**In loco parentis:** In loco parentis (from Latin meaning 'in place of a parent') refers to a person who has been given explicit permission to assume parental responsibility for a child by his or her parents or legal guardian.

**Regulated activity:** For the purposes of identifying roles or individuals qualifying for Disclosure and Barring Service Check, regulated activity is defined as: involving contact with children or adults at risk and is of a specified nature (e.g. teaching, training, care, supervision, advice, medical treatment or in certain circumstances transport) on a frequent, intensive and/or overnight basis; or involving contact with children or adults at risk in a specified place (e.g. schools, care homes etc.), frequently or intensively. For more information please click on the [link](#).

**Need to know:** In the context of sharing confidential information, disclosing details only to those people who have to be informed in the interests of a child or children. The factors that need to be considered when determining whether to disclose information include: the reason for sharing the information; the level of detail that needs to be disclosed; with whom the information will be shared; and whether disclosing the information is a proportionate response to the need to protect a child from harm.

**Parent:** The parent refers to the person who holds parental responsibility or the person given the responsibility for the day-to-day care of the child on behalf of the parent or an official body.

**Safeguarding:** Safeguarding refers to a range of proactive measures taken to keep children safe and promote their wellbeing, including child protection.

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**Social Services:** Throughout the procedures the generic term social services is used to represent the relevant local authority social services functions with regard to children.

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### 3. Policy

#### 3.1. Introduction

Participation in Pétanque can provide valuable life experiences and has the potential to offer significant learning opportunities for children that can help develop valuable life skills as well as enhancing self-esteem and confidence.

Although the majority of children benefit from participation in sport, some young people have experienced abuse and/or poor practice linked to their participation. In addition, some children who are participating in Pétanque may be experiencing abuse unrelated to the sport, either at home or within the wider community.

Coaches, volunteers and officials are in the privileged position of having an opportunity to build strong relationships with young people in their care and are therefore ideally placed to recognise signs that a child may be being abused. This can be achieved by being alert to and aware of the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children and being aware of and responding to any indicators that a child may be experiencing abuse.

The (WPA) recognises the importance of ensuring there are procedures in place that outline the appropriate steps to take in the event of a concern. In addition, it is essential to ensure there are comprehensive policies and practical guidance that promote the welfare of children and minimise any identifiable risks within the sports environment.

The WPA aspires for the sport to be provided in an environment where individuals feel able to raise concerns and where poor practice and inappropriate behaviour can be openly challenged. This can be facilitated by championing the promotion of children's welfare and providing access to advice and training to help support staff, members and volunteers to understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

The development of Pétanque policy and procedures is important to support both the WPA and their clubs and membership to fulfil their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their care and ensure a consistent and best practice approach across the sport.

#### 3.2. Background

The Welsh Government has adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as the basis of all work for children and young people in Wales. Seven core aims have been identified, which should inform all activities for children and young people:

- have a flying start in life;
- have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities;
- enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation;
- have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities;

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- are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised;
- have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing;
- are not disadvantaged by poverty.

Pétanque can make a significant contribution to the achievement of these outcomes for children involved in the sport. Organisations that provide services for children (defined in the Children Act 1989 as anyone under the age of 18 years) have a duty to safeguard and promote their welfare. The [Wales Safeguarding Procedures](#) (2019) help practitioners apply the legislation [Social Services and Wellbeing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#) and statutory safeguarding guidance [Working Together to Safeguard People](#). They are an essential part of safeguarding children and promoting their welfare and they outline the framework for determining how individual child protection referrals, actions and plans are made and carried out. They are based on the principle that the protection of children from harm is the responsibility of all individuals and agencies working with children and families, including those working or volunteering in sport. Partnership working and communication between agencies is identified as key in order to identify vulnerable children and to help keep them safe from harm and abuse.

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures are made-up of 2 sections to cover the whole-life age range:

- Procedures that are specific to children
- Procedures that are specific to adults at risk

And 1 section about workers:

- Procedures relating to allegations against practitioners

The sections provide clear guidance on:

- Safeguarding principles
- Early intervention and help
- Duty to report
- Initial Enquiry and Responding to a Report, including timescales
- Decision Making
- Planning and Intervention
- Cross-border working

The implementation of this safeguarding policy, associated procedures and practice guidelines will help to minimise the risk of abuse, foster an environment where concerns can be shared and inappropriate behaviour challenged and provide parents and carers with reassurance that they are leaving their children in a safe setting.

### 3.3. Statement Of Intent



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The WPA acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is fully committed to developing robust policy and procedures that minimise the risk of children experiencing abuse within the sport setting.

The WPA aims to ensure all children have a positive, enjoyable and beneficial experience in playing Pétanque in a safe and child centred environment.

The WPA recognises that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and expects all staff, members and volunteers to be fully committed to promoting and implementing the policy throughout the sport.

The Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures are mandatory for anyone within the sport who is involved either directly or indirectly with children as part of their role in the sport. Anyone who supplies a service for children on behalf of the NGB or an NGB registered club must demonstrate that they have met equivalent standards as those set out in the policy and will be required to comply with the WPA's safeguarding procedures and guidance for the duration of their involvement with the sport.

### 3.4. Core Principles

The Policy is based upon the following fundamental principles:

- The welfare of children is paramount;
- Children's needs are the central consideration in all decision making;
- All young people, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, parental status, disability, religion or belief, colour, race, ethnic or national origins, or socio/economic background have a right to be protected from abuse;
- There is a duty of care to safeguard children and work in partnership with relevant stakeholders (police, social services, NSPCC, children, parents/carers, other organisations) is key to meeting this responsibility;
- Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

### 3.5. Legislation and Government Guidance

The following are the key pieces of legislation and government guidance that are most relevant to the policy and procedures:

- [Children Act 1989](#)
- [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [Data Protection Act 1998](#)
- [Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)
- [Children Act 2004](#)
- [Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004](#)
- [Rights of Children and Young Persons \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#)
- [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#)
- [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)
- [Wales Safeguarding Procedures and Practice Guides 2019](#)

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### 3.6. Objectives

The WPA is highly committed to fulfilling its safeguarding responsibilities. The key objectives include:

- To ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is able to contribute effectively to the safeguarding process;
- To ensure that all those working or volunteering with children within the sport are able to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people and able to contribute effectively to safeguarding;
- To ensure everyone has access to opportunities to learn about safeguarding at a level commensurate with their role and responsibilities;
- To promote safe practice and ensure appropriate and timely action is taken to address poor practice;
- To ensure that all allegations or suspicions of abuse are reported to the police and/or social services and contribute as required to the child protection process;
- To foster effective partnerships with NGB's and clubs to promote safeguarding and effectively manage the sport's response to concerns arising;
- To manage effectively information sharing with other relevant agencies in the interests of safeguarding children;
- To operate robust recruitment and selection process to help deter and prevent unsuitable people from becoming involved in the sport and ensure anyone who is subsequently considered unsuitable is removed.

### 3.7. NGB Responsibilities

The overall responsibility for safeguarding rests with the the WPA Executive Committee who will ensure the Association's procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children comply with the [Wales Protection Procedures 2019](#). The WPA has appointed a Lead Officer for Safeguarding who will be responsible for managing the response to safeguarding concerns and supporting the implementation of the policy. The WPA will also ensure there is a nominated NGB welfare officer for each club, activity or event that involves children.

The WPA will develop and monitor an implementation plan that sets out how the Association will work towards meeting the requirements of the [Framework for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in and through Sport](#) (NSPCC CPSU 2009).

The WPA is responsible for regulating the conduct of individuals within the sport of Pétanque in Wales and will work in partnership with the three other home nations NGB's to ensure that all concerns, allegations or suspicions of abuse in relation to any child are swiftly reported to the Police and/or Social Services and all relevant information is shared to support these organisations to fulfil their safeguarding roles.

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The WPA will establish a Case Management Group, which is made up of individuals with the appropriate safeguarding knowledge, skills and experience. The Group will be responsible for determining the appropriate course of action in the event of a safeguarding concern. This will include:

- Reporting of abuse cases to external authorities, if this has not already taken place;
- Agreeing any necessary interim protection measures pending the outcome of the case e.g. suspension of membership;
- Agreeing appropriate remedial action.

In the event of an allegation against an Executive Committee member, volunteer or other person with an involvement in the sport, the WPA will take action to ensure young people are protected and, where appropriate will support the prosecution of individuals accused of abuse of a child/children.

The WPA will work in partnership with clubs and other relevant organisations to ensure all other safeguarding related misconduct or poor practice issues/non-compliance with policy are appropriately addressed.

The WPA will require clubs who have junior members, as a condition of registration to appoint a welfare officer who will have the key responsibility for safeguarding within their club.

The WPA will require all adults who work or volunteer with children within the sport to attend a basic safeguarding awareness course. UK Coaching facilitate a Safeguarding and Protecting three-hour training course which can be accessed by all coaches, volunteers etc.

The WPA will operate robust safe recruitment and selection processes and will include a requirement for all existing and new staff and members who are working with children (paid or unpaid) to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check.

### 3.8. Club Responsibilities

All NGB registered clubs that provide activities and opportunities for children have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

The WPA requires all registered/affiliated clubs to:

- Formally sign up to the NGB policy and procedures or adopt a club policy that complies with Regional Safeguarding Board and NGB requirements.
- Ensure a senior official within the club has the overall responsibility for safeguarding.
- Identify at least one individual designated person (Welfare/Safeguarding Officer) within the club to take the lead responsibility for safeguarding. This role should include:

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- Responding to child protection and poor practice concerns in partnership with the NGB Lead Officer and local statutory agencies if required;
  - Promoting the welfare of children and importance of safeguarding;
  - Involving young people in the safeguarding process, wherever possible;
  - Supporting club staff and volunteers to understand their safeguarding role and responsibilities;
  - Carrying out regular reviews of safeguarding within the club and ensuring any identified risks are appropriately managed;
  - Promoting safe recruitment and selection practices.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers who are working directly or indirectly with children receive appropriate training and have access to advice on child protection and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children through the club welfare officer.
  - Ensure safe recruitment and selection practices are in operation for all new staff and volunteers working with children
  - Ensure that any concerns about poor practice by existing staff and volunteers are addressed
  - Engage with young people and their parents/carers to encourage them to feel able to raise concerns and support them to understand how they can contribute to safeguarding.

**It is important to remember that it is not the role of anyone within the sport to investigate suspected or alleged abuse. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that all concerns are reported without delay, in line with WPA policy to the NGB's Lead Safeguarding Officer, Social Services and/or the Police.**

### 3.9. Club Responsibilities

The WPA recognises the importance of ensuring that there are procedures in place that ensure *all* children are protected from abuse and poor practice. The WPA acknowledges that some children, including young people with disabilities or children from an ethnic minority community can be more vulnerable to abuse. Care will be taken to ensure additional safeguards are in place to take account of individual needs and recognise that there may be additional challenges that need to be addressed to help all young people raise concerns.

### 3.10. Review and Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, and in light of:

- changes in relevant legislation and/or government guidance;
- requirements of the Regional Safeguarding Boards, NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit & Sport Wales;
- learning from serious cases.

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In addition, the WPA will review the effectiveness and implementation of the policy and procedures by:

- Monitoring compliance with the policy and procedures;
- Providing reports to the Board on all matters relating to safeguarding;
- Carrying out case reviews following the conclusion of any major child protection case within the sport;
- Reviewing the outcomes for the child in cases where the NGB has taken action;
- Seeking the views of key stakeholders in the sport, including young people.

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### 4. Safeguarding Officer

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

#### WPA Executive Committee

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Review Date: April 2022