



## **SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN POLICY**

### **1. FOREWARD AND OUR STANCE AS AN ORGANISATION**

- 1.1 Young people are the future of our sport and participate in volleyball in various ways from playing to volunteering and should be able to do so in a safe and happy environment.
- 1.2 As our sport has grown and developed, so has the need to safeguard the ever-increasing number of young people involved; something which has always been a priority for Volleyball England. This Safeguarding & Protecting Children Policy and supporting documents has been designed to both inform and guide those within our sport on all aspects of safeguarding and should be adopted by all members of the volleyball community.
- 1.3 Volleyball England believes that all participants, staff and volunteers should feel safe while participating in volleyball. We are committed to creating and maintaining a positive environment where all concerns will be listened to, acted on appropriately and all participants treated with respect.
- 1.4 *At Volleyball England, safeguarding all of those who participate in volleyball is a golden thread through all levels of the organisation. Our mission is 'Participating in volleyball is safe and enjoyable for all'.*
- 1.5 All of the information within this document and more can be found online at: [www.volleyballengland.org/safeguarding](http://www.volleyballengland.org/safeguarding)

### **2. SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

- 2.1 Volleyball England acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and Sport England requirements.
- 2.2 This policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:
  - Have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at Volleyball England in a safe and child centred environment.
  - Are protected from abuse whilst participating in volleyball or outside of the activity.
- 2.3 Volleyball England acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people, LGBTQ+ young people, those from Black and Asian minority groups or young people performing at an elite level can be particularly

vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

2.4 As part of our safeguarding policy volleyball england will:

- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of 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.
- 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.

2.5 The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Volleyball England. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

### **3. MONITORING**

3.1 The Volleyball England Safeguarding Technical Advisors Group will provide a strategic overview of the safeguarding policies and procedures for Volleyball England.

3.2 They will review, monitor and evaluate the policies, procedures and good practice guidance in place to ensure that our sport is kept to the highest standards and that our young people can participate in a safe and enjoyable environment.

3.3 There will be an annual review of the policy or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in UK and international legislation and/or Government Guidance.
- As required by the local safeguarding arrangements, UK Sport and/or Sport England, as a result of any other significant change or event

*The date for the next review will be November 2026.*