

Huddersfield Pétanque Club Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

This document is the Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy for Huddersfield Pétanque Club and will be followed by all members of the organisation and followed and promoted by those in the position of leadership within the organisation.

The purpose of the organisation is provision of social and competitive opportunities with pétanque.

The organisation does not undertake activities with children in the absence of their parents/carers but has the opportunity to observe the young persons/children's welfare within their family setting. Parents/carers remain responsible for their children's welfare throughout all the work undertaken by the organisation.

The organisation accepts Junior members only if the parents/carers are also members. We recommend the minimum age for Junior members to be 11.

We know that being a young person makes them vulnerable to abuse by adults. The purpose of this policy is to make sure that the actions of any adult in the context of the work carried out by the organisation are transparent and safeguard and promote the welfare of all young people.

If any parent or young person/child has any concerns about the conduct of any member of the organisation, this should be raised in the first instance the designated child protection contact.

The club's contact is the Club Chair.

Principles upon which the Child Protection Policy is based.

- The welfare of a child or young person will always be paramount.
- The welfare of families will be promoted.
- The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their families will be respected and listened to.
- Those people in positions of responsibility within the organisation will work in accordance with the interests of children and young people and follow the procedures outlined below.
- Those people in positions of responsibility within the organisation will ensure that the same opportunities are available to everyone and that all differences between individuals will be treated with respect.

CHILD PROTECTION/SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

1. Immediate Action to Ensure Safety

- If emergency medical attention is required call an ambulance or take a child to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department.
- If a child is in immediate danger the police should be contacted as they alone have the power to remove a child immediately if protection is necessary, via Police Protection Order.

2. Recognition of Abuse or Neglect

Abuse or neglect of a child is caused by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting or by those known to them or more rarely by a stranger.

Individuals within Huddersfield Pétanque Club need to be alert to the potential abuse by members of that organisation.

The club should know how to recognise and act upon indicators of abuse or potential abuse involving children. There is an expected responsibility for all members of the club to respond to any suspected or actual abuse of a child in accordance with these procedures.

It is good practice to be as open and honest as possible with parents/carers about any concerns.

However, you must not discuss your concerns with parents/carers in the following circumstances:

- where sexual abuse is suspected
- where organised or multiple abuse is suspected
- where fictitious illness by proxy is suspected
- where contacting parents/carers would place a child, yourself or others at immediate risk.

3. What to do if children talk to you about abuse or neglect

It is recognised that a child may seek you out to share information about abuse or neglect, or talk spontaneously individually or in groups when you are present. In these situations you must:

- Listen carefully to the child. DO NOT directly question the child.
- Give the child time and attention.
- Allow the child to give a spontaneous account; do not stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- Make an accurate record of the information you have been given taking care to record the timing, setting and people present, the child's presentation as well as what was said. Do not throw this away as it may later be needed as evidence.
- Use the child's own words where possible.
- Explain you cannot promise not to speak to others about the information they have shared.
- Reassure the child that:
you are glad they have told you;
they have not done anything wrong;
what you are going to do next.
- Explain that you will need to get help to keep the child safe.
- Do NOT ask the child to repeat his or her account of events to anyone.

4. Consulting about your concern

The purpose of consultation is to discuss your concerns in relation to a child and decide what action is necessary.

If you are concerned about a child you must share your concerns. Initially you should talk to one of the people designated as responsible for child protection within Huddersfield Pétanque Club who will decide if further consultation is required.

5. Confidentiality

The organisation should ensure that any records made in relation to a referral should be kept confidentially and in a secure place.

Information in relation to child protection concerns should be shared on a “need to know” basis. However, the sharing of information is vital to child protection and, therefore, the issue of confidentiality is secondary to a child’s need for protection.

January 25th 2022