

Child Safeguarding Policy

England Dodgeball believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, nationality, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who receive England Dodgeball's services, including the children of adult members or users.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt if they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the committee, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of England Dodgeball.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- accept the moral and legal responsibility to provide a duty of care to protect and safeguard the wellbeing of all children engaged in any activity which it has control over
- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

Any member of staff, member or non-member who has a safeguarding concern should speak to the welfare officer or complete a **safeguarding referral form** and return it to the welfare officer.

Katie Lake
Welfare Officer

Date: 1/11/2018
Review Date: 30/10/2019

Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

England Dodgeball is committed to ensuring that vulnerable people who use our services are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse. All members have a duty to identify abuse and report it to the welfare officer in person, via e-mail or by completing a **safeguarding referral form**.

Definition

Vulnerable adults are people who are over 18 years of age and are getting or may need help and services to live in the community. Vulnerable adults may be unable to take care of themselves and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people.

Abuse can include:

- physical,
- financial,
- material,
- sexual,
- psychological,
- discriminatory,
- emotional abuse
- neglect.

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetuated by anyone.

Rights & Responsibilities

Responsibilities of England Dodgeball committee:

- To ensure volunteers are aware of vulnerable adult's need for protection
- To notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected
- To support and where possible secure the safety of individuals and ensure that all referrals to services have full information in relation to identified risk and vulnerability
- To check volunteers that have access to or work with Vulnerable Adults through the Disclosure and Barring Service

Responsibilities of England Dodgeball coaches:

- To be familiar with the vulnerable adult protection policy.
- To take appropriate action in line with the policy of England Dodgeball.
- To declare any existing or subsequent convictions.

Support for those who report abuse

All those making a complaint or allegation or expressing concern, whether they are coaches, members or the general public should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously
- Their comments will usually be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities if they or others are at significant risk

The Vulnerable Adult has the right:

- To be made aware of this policy
- To have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously
- To receive fair and respectful treatment throughout
- To be involved in any process as appropriate
- To receive information about the outcome

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Katie Lake
Welfare Officer

Date: 1/11/2018
Review Date: 30/10/2019

Terminology and Descriptors

Abuse & Neglect

'Child abuse and neglect' are forms of maltreatment of a child. These terms include physical and sexual assaults as well as cases where the standard of care does not adequately support the child's health or development. Children may be abused or neglected through the infliction of harm, or through the failure to act to prevent harm.

Bullying

Bullying may be defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. It can take many forms, but the three main types are physical, verbal and emotional.

Child

Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, as per the Children Acts 1989 and 2004.

Child Protection

Process of protecting individual children identified as either suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Committee member with responsibility for overseeing England Dodgeball's approach to safeguarding children, including dealing with concerns about the protection of children. This is undertaken by the Welfare Officer.

Parent

The term 'parents' also refers to carers or guardians, or people with parental responsibilities.

Poor Practice

Poor practice includes any behaviour that contravenes the Code of Conduct which is based around:

- rights of the player, the parent, the coach, the official
- responsibilities for the welfare of the players, the sport, the profession of coaching, and their own development
- respect for other players, officials and their decisions, coaches, the rules

Safeguarding

The process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

Vulnerable Adult

A person aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of community care services and is or may be unable to protect themselves from harm.

England Dodgeball recognises that it is not appropriate to operate combined policies regarding the safeguarding of children and of vulnerable adults, due to the vast differences in legal and statutory requirements.

Wellbeing

The five outcomes that are key to children's and young people's wellbeing, as first set out in Every Child Matters are to: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic wellbeing. The Children Act 2004 requires local agencies to co-operate with a view to improving the wellbeing of children in relation to these outcomes.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013

Government guidance that sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children. The guidelines set out core legal requirements, making it easier for what individuals and organisations should do to keep children safe and promote their welfare.

Young Person

Reference to 'children' and 'young people' throughout this document apply interchangeably.