**Safeguarding and Young people’s policy**

We will work in accordance with the Safeguarding and Young People’s Policy of Badminton England and have adopted this policy. (See BE Safeguarding Policy 2021 under Safeguarding header on the LBA website).

The welfare of the children attending all training and match sessions within this Association is paramount. All employees, volunteers, team managers, coaches and officials will be aware of child protection policies. The person with the responsibility for child protection issues with the Association is the Child Protection/ Welfare Officer (CPO). All Child Protection concerns will be strictly confidential. The CPO will be responsible for making a referral to Badminton England or Social Services, the Police or the NSPCC may be involved. Advice about concerns will be sought from the relevant Authority's Safeguarding and Young people’s Committee through Badminton England.

Any observations which cause concern for a child will be recorded accurately without comment or interpretation on a dated and signed incident form available from the CPO. The CPO would do this. If possible another volunteer, team manager, coach or official will witness the observation. We will liaise with other bodies as above. The Association operates in accordance with Local Authority guidelines. All confidential records on a child will be shared with the relevant Social Service Department if the Association feels that the parents / carers have not given an adequate explanation of the child's condition, should this be the case.

We will support families. Where abuse at home is suspected, the Association will continue to welcome the child and their parents into the Association while investigations are carried out. Advice about concerns may be sought from the relevant authorities using the contact telephone numbers below.

Lincolnshire Social Services 01522 532244 or 01529 413366, Police 01522 882222. North Lincs Social Services 01724 296500, Police 01724 282888. North East Lincs Social Services 01427 325151, Police 01472 359171. NSPCC 0808 800 5000.

We will create in our Association an environment in which children are safe from abuse and in which any suspicion of abuse is promptly and appropriately responded to. Any adult member must get Child Protection clearance and Disclosure and Barring Service clearance before they come into contact with a junior member in a managing, coaching or supervisory capacity. Any employee or adult member coming in contact with a junior member in a managing, coaching or supervisory capacity will be subject to a probationary period of involvement and must attend a Safeguarding Young people’s Training Course. Their appointment will not be confirmed until the Association is confident that the member can be safely entrusted with children.

All volunteers, team managers, coaches and officials should be aware of their responsibility as childcare workers to share concerns they have about a child with the CPO. If they feel this is not being taken seriously they should share their concerns with Social Services or the Police. All volunteers, team managers, coaches and officials should be aware of possible indicators of child abuse. Records will be kept as appropriate.

Whenever worrying changes are observed in a child's behaviour, physical condition or appearance, a specific and confidential record will be set up. This record, available from the CPO, will include the child's name, address, age and the times and dates of observations. The report will objectively describe the child's behaviour and appearance without comment or interpretation. Where possible, the exact words spoken by the child will be recorded and it will include the date, time and signature of the recorder and of a witness is possible. These records will be kept as confidential and will not be accessible to anyone other than the persons concerned.

Any volunteer, team manager, coach or official accused of child abuse will be informed of this by Badminton England in the first instance. They may be informed of an allegation reported by the person responsible for Child Protection issues. The person accused may be suspended whilst an investigation is made. Investigations will be in line with either Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board or Badminton England.

This policy is as approved at the AGM 2023 in line with Badminton England Safeguarding Policy.