



## **SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY STATEMENT**

This Safeguarding & Protecting Young People Policy applies to all Volleyball England (VE) affiliated bodies. Liverpool Volleyball Club (LVC) has therefore adopted the Volleyball England Policy and will follow the Volleyball England guidelines. LVC has a commitment to best practice in the care of young people and it is expected that all members of its volleyball community will comply with the Policy and the regulations contained within it. LVC's Club Welfare Officer (previously known as Safeguarding Officer) and/or Chair will sign up to this Policy on behalf of the affiliated club, group or organisation.

## **SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN VOLLEYBALL POLICY GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

LVC strives to create an environment where all children and young people can learn about, participate in and enjoy volleyball free from abuse and harassment and to achieve this we have adopted the following principles:

- A young person's welfare is always of paramount importance.
- A young person, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, social status or sexual orientation has a right to be protected from abuse.
- The rights, dignity and worth of a young person should always be respected.
- Special care should be taken when dealing with children whose age, inexperience or physical state makes them particularly vulnerable to abuse.
- Deaf and disabled young people have an increased vulnerability, therefore it is essential to be additionally aware of their safeguarding needs and there may be situations where there is a need to take extra measures.

Everyone working with children has a moral and legal responsibility to safeguard and promote a child's welfare particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse.

## **PROCEDURES**

Everyone within volleyball must act in accordance with the general principles set out in this Policy and so all concerns must be reported in accordance with Volleyball England's reporting procedures. LVC will therefore adhere to the following procedures to achieve this aim.

- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working or helping within the club.
- Seek and provide training to ensure that all volunteers are aware of their responsibilities with regard to child protection.
- Implement good practices as outlined in more detail in the VE Safeguarding and protecting young people policy document.
- Respond appropriately to suspicions of abuse.
- The Children's Act 1989 states that anyone who is involved in the care of children should "do what is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare".
- All qualified junior coaches will be CRB checked.

## CLUB WELFARE OFFICER (CWO) ROLE

LVC recognise that it is important that all children (under 18) at the club feel that they can approach any club volunteer, with whom they feel most confident, but in order to help ensure that Liverpool Volleyball club maintains its commitment to Child Protection, every year the club will appoint a single point of contact for safeguarding issues. This role has been renamed as is now known as the Club Welfare Officer. The role of the CWO is as follows:

- To provide the main contact for issues related to ensuring the safe recruitment of volunteers and responding to concerns/allegations or disclosures.
- The CWO will attend the Sports Coach UK workshop, “Safeguarding and Protecting Children” and the “Time to Listen” workshop.
- The CWO will help the club to follow the guidelines of Volleyball England, ensuring that any updates to this policy are communicated to all club members & ensure that club volunteers are appropriately aware & trained in Child Protection issues.
- The Club Child Welfare Officer is not however the recipient & solver of all problems & issues.

Our designated Child welfare Officer is Martin Mierzwa who can be contacted at [chair@liverpoolvolleyball.org](mailto:chair@liverpoolvolleyball.org). This Child Protection Policy applies to volunteers who are over 18 years old who come into contact with children at any event organised by or held under the authority of the Volleyball England.