

# **Black Country Volleyball**

## **SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE POLICY (Children, young people and vulnerable adults)**

We are committed, and have a legal duty, to keep children and young people safe from harm. We adopt Volleyball England's Child Protection Policy.

Safeguarding is the action we take to promote the welfare of children (and adults) and protect them from harm - is everyone's responsibility.

Everyone who comes into contact with children and families at the club has a role to play. Safeguarding includes all procedures designed to prevent harm to a child.

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process, protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes the child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

We provide:

1. A designated safeguarding lead (Nichola Erb, Parent, July 2018)
2. Clear lines of accountability
3. Coaches and Managers are DBS checked and have valid certificates
4. Culture of listening to and consulting with children
5. Clear safeguarding policies including how to respond to concerns

### **Key Principles of this policy:**

1. the welfare and safety of children and young people is of primary concern
2. all children have a right to be safe and to be treated with dignity and respect
3. all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse
4. it is the responsibility of the child protection professionals to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, but it is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns
5. all incidents of suspected poor practice and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
6. all cases will be treated in strict confidence
7. this policy will be promoted to volunteers, parents and players, and is available on the website

## **We will:**

1. accept responsibility to provide a duty of care to protect and safeguard the wellbeing of children
2. respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children and young people
3. Ensure recruitment of representatives (coaches/managers) takes account of the need to protect children and include arrangements for appropriate checks on new volunteers
4. Ensure volunteers adopt best practice to safeguard and protect young people from abuse, and reduce the likelihood of allegations of abuse against themselves
5. respond to any allegations and concerns appropriately and implement the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures
6. promote a culture that ensures that children and young people are listened to and respected as individuals
7. ensure that parents, children, staff and volunteers are provided with information about this policy, what it does, and what they can expect
8. ensure that parents, children, staff and volunteers understand who to speak to and how to voice their concerns or make a complaint if they feel unsure or unhappy about anything
9. maintain confidentiality and ensure information is shared as appropriate with other agencies in all cases involving safeguarding, in line with current legislation
10. the Safeguarding lead will seek advice and support (if necessary) from the Local Authority (Children's Services) Safeguarding Team, or Police and or Volleyball England.
11. If a referral is made to the Safeguarding Team or Police, a written report and information will be provided (by the safeguarding lead) within 24 hours