



CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Children want their cricket clubs to be sociable and fun places where they can have the chance to develop their skills, whatever their level, in a comfortable and friendly space. They want something that fits into their busy lives and to be friendly and inclusive so that their skills are nurtured in a supportive way, (ECB research 2015).

The safety and protection of children and young people at Mersey Rose Recationals Cricket Club (the Club) is a priority for all those who work at the club and this safeguarding and child protection policy sets out the responsibilities of the club and those who work within it.

‘Safeguarding’ means all the actions we take to promote the safety and wellbeing of all children involved in our sport; from safety issues during training sessions and games to ensuring our play areas are safe and welcoming. ‘Child protection’ is an important part of safeguarding and means the actions we take to protect specific children who may be at risk of harm or abuse.

The Club is committed to ensuring all children (all persons under the age of 18) participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience.

We will do this by:

- Recognising all children participating in cricket (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, or disability) have the right to have fun in a safe environment.
- Ensuring individuals working within cricket at or for the Club provide a welcoming, safe, and fun experience for children.
- Adopting and implementing the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) “Safe Hands – Cricket’s Policy for Safeguarding Children” and any future versions of this
- Appointing a Club Safeguarding Officer and ensuring they attend all current and future training modules required by ECB.
- Ensuring all people who work at or for the Club (such as staff, officials, volunteers, team managers, coaches and so on) are recruited and appointed in accordance with ECB guidelines and relevant legislation, have a

responsibility for safeguarding children, and understand how the " Safe Hands Policy" applies to them.

- Ensuring all individuals working within cricket at or for the club are provided with support, through education and training, so they are aware of, and can adhere to, good practice and Code of Conduct guidelines defined by the ECB and the club.
- Ensuring correct and comprehensive reporting procedures exist for raising and managing child safeguarding concerns.
- Ensuring that up to date policies are in place and shared with parents, employees, volunteers, and club members relating to the following topics:
 - Changing and showering
 - Transporting children
 - Photography / video
 - Sun guidance
 - Missing children
 - Playing in open age (senior) matches
 - Anti-bullying and the code of conduct
 - Social medial, text and email
- Providing an environment where the views of children, parents and volunteers are sought and welcomed on a range of issues. This will help us create an environment where people can voice any concerns (about possible suspected child abuse or neglect and / or about poor practice) to the Club Safeguarding Officer. Details of the County Safeguarding Officer will be made available in case the Club Safeguarding Officer is unavailable or the concern relates to the Club Safeguarding Officer
- Ensuring all suspicions, concerns and allegations are taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
- Ensuring access to confidential information relating to child safeguarding matters is restricted to those who need to know to safeguard children – including the Club Safeguarding Officer and the appropriate external authorities, such as the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO*), as specified within ECB child safeguarding procedures.

** The LADO is responsible for investigating all concerns relating to a professional or person who works with children and who may have harmed them or committed an offence against a child.*

- Ensuring that the name and contact details of the Club Safeguarding Officer is readily available.

The Club's Safeguarding Officer is **Anna Page**. Her contact details are included later in this policy document along with other useful safeguarding and child protection contact details.

- The Club will ensure the Club Safeguarding Officer is available:

- As the first point of contact for parents, children, and volunteers / staff within the club
- As a local source of procedural advice for the club, its committee, and members
- As the main point of contact within the club for the ECB County Safeguarding Officer and the ECB Safeguarding Team, and
- As the main point of contact within the club for the relevant external services in connection with child protection and safeguarding

Although not an exhaustive list, the Club will endeavour to promote the following examples of **good practice** in their coaches, volunteers, and members.

- Ensure that cricket is fun, enjoyable, and fair play is promoted.
- Treat all young people equally with respect and dignity.
- The welfare of the young person comes before winning.
- Do not use bad language, smoke, or drink while in charge of young people.
- Work in an open environment both physically and emotionally e.g., encourage participation.
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback.
- Ensure proper records are kept and are at hand if required (including accident and injury)
- Ensure physical contact should be appropriate and with the young person's permission.
- Always follow up allegations made by a young person in accordance with the guidelines in the ECB "Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children
- For coaches and volunteers to keep their technical skills, qualifications, and insurances up to date and to always inform a parent if: a young person receives an injury; a young person seems distressed in some manner; a young person misunderstands or misinterprets something they have done.

The club believes the following, although again not an exhaustive list, are examples of **poor behaviour** by coaches, volunteer and members and would expect them to be highlighted and challenged where necessary.

- Spending time alone with young people away from others
- Taking young people to their home or otherwise being alone with a young person

- Engaging in rough, physical, or sexually provocative games
- Sharing a room with a young person (tours etc)
- Making sexually suggestive remarks to a young person
- Allowing inappropriate language to be used unchallenged.
- Completing tasks of a personal nature for a young person that they should do themselves (such as helping them in the toilet)
- Transporting young people in their car alone
- Transporting young people when not fully insured or in an unroadworthy vehicle.
- Drinking alcohol, smoking, or using illegal substances when in charge of children and young people

The Club wishes to thank and acknowledge the support provided by parents in encouraging their children to attend training and match sessions. Also, in contributing to the success and achievements of the junior sections of the club. It believes that good communication between parents and the club is essential for a safe, professionally managed, and nurturing environment.

We hope that all parents can.

- Encourage all children to participate, enjoy and celebrate their achievements in cricket.
- Allow children to develop their cricket skills at their own pace and support the coaches and volunteers in their aims as learners.
- Understand how their input can affect how children and young people feel about themselves, their teammates, and their ability to perform – to encourage and support children to take joy from their time on the pitch or in the field, win or lose.
- Take an active role in highlighting concerns or making suggestions about how to improve our club – we should always be curious about how we can be a better club.
- Feel comfortable talking with the Club Safeguarding Officer, Club Captain or any member of the coaching or volunteer staff about any safeguarding or child protection concerns they may have.

Contact Information

Mersey Rose Recationals Cricket Club Safeguarding Officer

Anna Page (07484 812018) email: annanpage@gmail.com

Important Numbers

Childline UK **0800 1111** (24 hour) www.childline.org.uk email:

NSPCC **0800 800 500** (24 hour) www.nspcc.org.uk email: help@nspcc.org.uk

The nearest **Police Station** with responsibility for general enquiries:

St Helens Police Station
College Street
St Helens
WA10 1TG

Tele 0151 709 6010

Emergency **999**

Non-emergency **111**

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) St Helens Council

LADO referrals are made via the LADO referral form which can be found on St Helens Council Website, WWW.sthelenssafeguarding.org.uk

The LADO referral form should be sent, securely, to sthelenslado@sthelens.gov.uk and then followed up with a telephone call to the Safeguarding Children's unit on 01744 671252 within 1 day of any allegation.

Lancashire County Safeguarding Officer

Mike Buckley 07710421231 e mail mbuckley@lancashirecricket.co.uk

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