



England Cricket Association for the Deaf **Safeguarding Policy Statement**

England Cricket Association for the Deaf (ECAD) is committed to ensuring all Children (i.e all persons under the age of 18) participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the ECB's:

- "Safe Hands" manual
- Guidance on "Safeguarding & a Club's Duty of Care"

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 and be protected from harm in a safe environment
- Ensuring individuals working within cricket at, or for, our association 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"
- Appointing a Welfare Officer and ensuring they attend training modules,
- Ensuring all people who work in cricket at, or for, our association (such as staff, officials, volunteers, team managers, coaches and so on) understand how the "Safe Hands Policy" applies to them
- Ensuring all individuals working within cricket at, or for, the association are recruited and appointed in accordance with ECB guidelines and relevant legislation
- Ensuring all individuals working within cricket at, or for, the association 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 ECAD

● Ensuring the name and contact details of the Welfare Officer is available:

○ As the first point of contact for parents, children and volunteers/staff within the

association

○ As a local source of procedural advice for the association, its committee and members

○ As the main point of contact within the club for relevant external agencies in

connection with child safeguarding

● Ensuring correct and comprehensive reporting procedures exist for raising and

managing child safeguarding concerns.

● 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 have the opportunity to voice any concerns (about possible suspected

child abuse/neglect, and/or about poor practice) to the Welfare 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 in order to safeguard children – including the

Welfare Officer and the appropriate external authorities, such as the Local Authority

Designated Officer (LADO).

ECAD also follows The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Guidance on Welcoming and Safeguarding children with a disability as outlined below:

The ECB is responsible for all cricket in England and Wales and has set out a clear vision to become, and remain, the world's leading Governing Body in providing access to cricket for disabled people.

We are committed to ensuring cricket is open, and accessible to all members of the community and they are supported to achieve their potential in any

capacity whether as a player, employee, volunteer, coach or official. This principle applies regardless of, age, race, disability, ability, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or background.

Many children with disabilities or special needs can be welcomed into the game with a sensible approach that involves talking with the child and his or her parents about what their abilities are and what they may need some assistance or different arrangement with (sometimes referred to as 'making reasonable adjustments') Children with disabilities are children first, and need to enjoy opportunities and experiences open to all children in a safe environment. The ECB is committed to supporting disabled children to be fully involved in cricket through the provision of a range of activities, training and supportive good practice guidance.

To help achieve this in cricket we are committed to supporting cricket club personnel including coaches, officials and other volunteers to ensure they are inclusive of, and safeguard, children with disabilities.

The ECB is aware the most valuable resource within clubs are the staff and volunteers who appreciate the value of cricket for disabled children and are supported to develop the confidence, will, and desire, to ensure they can become fully integrated members of the cricket family.

In the first instance, the club should discuss the child's needs and abilities with the child and his or her parents/carers. For many children with a disability, parents and carers will be able to offer practical advice on adaptations or arrangements that can be made to enable their child to participate.

It is good practice to agree a support plan with the parents and the child, and to review this regularly. The club welfare officer should be involved. It may be necessary or useful to involve the child and the parent / carer in the plan itself, if this will help meet the child's needs and allow them to participate.

Remember, many children may have hidden disabilities (or special needs) – such as an autistic spectrum disorder, or deafness, or another condition that is not obvious. It is important during the registration process and/or welcome meeting to offer the opportunity for parents to meet someone in private to discuss their child, if they would like to do so. This forms part of our 'Welcoming' approach for all children, including those with disabilities.

Children with disabilities have particular vulnerability to abuse and neglect – club personnel should be aware of these, see <https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/?topic=1148>.

[How to share a concern – ECAD follows ECB Safe hand policy.](#)

ECAD Welfare/Safeguarding Officer – Tracy Wright – Email address:
safeguarding@englanddeafcricket.co.uk

If you want to make a concern or a report of an issue about an adult, a coach or volunteer, please contact Tracy Wright by email.

How to share a concern

If you have any concerns about a child or adult at risk or the behaviour of an adult towards either of these, you should share these immediately. It is natural to feel a little anxious about reporting a safeguarding concern, but remember, it is not your responsibility to decide if abuse or neglect has taken place, but you do have a duty of care to share any concerns you have.

There are a number of ways to report a concern:

- To your Club Safeguarding Officer – [Tracy Wright](#) & her email address: safeguarding@englanddeafcricket.co.uk
- To your County Safeguarding Officer – details can be found from your local County Cricket Board.
- To the ECB Directly – you can do this by calling 020 7432 1200 and asking for a member of the Safeguarding Team or by emailing safeguarding@ecb.co.uk.
- If urgent and you cannot contact your club, or County Safeguarding Officer, you should call the NSPCC 24-hour helpline on 0808 800 5000.
- If it is an emergency and someone is at immediate risk, then call the Police or Children’s Social Care in your area.

The ECB Safeguarding Referral Form is very useful in creating a referral as it has several questions and tips to ensure you provide all the relevant information.

- ECB Safeguarding Referral Form Template [Download](#)
- Responding to, recording and reporting concerns [Download](#)
- Recording of information by Club and County Safeguarding Officers [Download](#)

Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing in a safeguarding context means revealing and raising concerns over misconduct or malpractice within an organisation, or within an independent structure associated with it.

It can be used as an early warning system or when it's recognised that appropriate actions have not been taken.

This approach or policy is adopted in many different walks of life.

Any adult or young person with concerns about a colleague's conduct towards a child, young person or adult at risk, can report this to the Safeguarding Team by emailing safeguarding@ecb.co.uk.

For any other whistleblowing concerns please email equality@ecb.co.uk.

Alternatively, concerns can be reported:

- Directly to the local Police or Children's Social Care services; or
- The Child Protection in Sport Unit at cpsu@nspcc.org.uk; or
- The NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 or email: help@nspcc.org.uk