

England Touch Association - Safeguarding Policy

Purpose

This policy sets out the England Touch Association's approach to safeguarding and promoting welfare and safe sport for all touch rugby participants. It applies to all aspects of the England Touch Association's work and to everyone involved in England Touch Association (ETA) affiliated touch rugby activities.

Welfare & Safe Sport Strategy

The ETA's Welfare & Safe Sport Strategy 2025 is underpinned by one core principle:

- **All staff, volunteers and participants should be safe and feel safe.**

This means that everything the ETA does should be in the interest of the safety and welfare of all ETA activity participants; staff, volunteers, players/athletes, coaches, referees and spectators. This includes ensuring that there are effective procedures for keeping all ETA participants safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Definitions

The ETA uses the definition of the term 'safeguarding' from statutory guidance.

'Safeguarding Children' is defined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: Statutory Guidance](#) as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Further explanations and examples of child abuse can be accessed through the NSPCC's website [Understanding child abuse: types, signs, and support | NSPCC](#).

'Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults' is defined in the [Care and Support Statutory Guidance - GOV.UK](#) as:

- Protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect;

- People and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect;
- People and organisations making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action; and
- Recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risks to their safety or wellbeing.

Recruitment

The ETA understands and recognises that all ETA affiliated coaches, referees, team managers, and High Performance staff/volunteers are considered individuals in a 'position of trust'. [Positions of Trust: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 Factsheet - GOV.UK](#)

ETA carries out safe recruitment checks on everyone who works directly in an appointed role for the ETA and who is in a position of trust and/or works directly with children and/or vulnerable adults. All such individuals, staff and volunteers, require a valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate.

The ETA additionally advises all affiliate and member organisations to ensure safe recruitment checks are conducted for all individuals within their organisations who are in a position of trust and work directly with children and/or vulnerable adults.

Expectations of Staff, Volunteers & Participants

Everyone working for the ETA, staff and volunteers, has the responsibility for familiarising themselves with this Safeguarding Policy and all accompanying guidance and procedures that go with it, as published on the ETA website. There must be a focus on welfare and safe sport in all aspects of ETA activity.

Everyone working for the ETA must inform the ETA Safeguarding & Welfare Officer if they become the subject of an allegation involving a safeguarding concern or abuse against a child and/or vulnerable adult. If anyone is in any doubt as to whether the situation is relevant, they should refer to the definitions of safeguarding or seek advice from the ETA Safeguarding & Welfare Officer.

Any allegations of misconduct towards children and/or vulnerable adults by those representing the ETA, staff, volunteers or participants, will be managed through the ETA's complaints and grievances procedures in conjunction with relevant statutory agencies when necessary.

Safeguarding Training

The ETA is committed to ensuring that the ETA staff and volunteer workforce understands their safeguarding responsibilities and keeps their knowledge up to date. All individuals in a position of trust and those working directly with children and vulnerable adults must complete safeguarding training within 6 months of taking up their post, and refresh their knowledge after 2 years.

Acting on Safeguarding Concerns

No ETA representative, staff, volunteer or participant, should investigate concerns about children and/or vulnerable adults who are or may be being abused or at risk. However, all have a responsibility to ensure that concerns are passed to relevant agencies to help them without delay.

Concerns and suspicions should not be ignored and there should be no assumption that someone has already taken action to protect that person. All such concerns should be reported to the ETA's Safeguarding & Welfare officer at safeguarding@englandtouch.org.uk who will manage the process for reporting the concerns to the local authority of where the individual lives.

Anyone representing the ETA as staff, volunteer or participants and has concerns about the behaviour of an ETA representative, must always raise their concerns with the ETA's Safeguarding & Welfare Officer as quickly as possible.

Learning & Improving

The ETA seeks to continually improve knowledge and understanding of how best to ensure welfare and safe sport for all participants involved in touch rugby. The ETA will therefore review and evaluate practices, procedures and policies regularly to ensure safeguarding continues to be a focus in all aspects of ETA activities.

Contact Details

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