



Policy approved 1st January 2025

Westgate Performance Centre Safeguarding Policy

Principles

Westgate Performance Centre (WPC) values the importance of creating a safe environment in which to play and coach. As such our policy is written with reference to Badminton England's policies and protocols, listed below.

Badminton England Safeguarding Adults Policy:
<https://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Badminton-England-Safeguarding-Adults-in-Sport-Policy-1.pdf>

Badminton England Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Young People Policy:

<https://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Badminton-England-Safeguarding-and-Protecting-Children-and-Young-People-Policy-2023.pdf>

WPC's Safeguarding Guiding Principles

- Safeguarding young people is the responsibility of everyone associated with WPC
- Everyone has the responsibility to act appropriately and report any concerns at the earliest opportunity
- All young people have the right to be protected from abuse and enjoy playing badminton in a safe environment
- The rights and values of all young people should be respected
- All allegations of inappropriate behaviour towards a young person will be taken extremely seriously and the Badminton England procedures followed (advice sought in consultation with our Welfare Officer and Badminton England where appropriate)
- WPC recognises the importance of working together with parents, carers and young people themselves to ensure young people are kept safe

Supporting our Young People at WPC:

WPC will ensure the safety of all our young people:

- Have a clear commitment to promoting children's welfare and safeguarding at all times
- Have a named Welfare Officer and that this person's contact details will be kept on a central register held by WPC and shared with Hampshire Badminton Association and The Westgate School
- Ensure that coaches are fully qualified and have had the appropriate checks made prior to coaching, including a DBS with Badminton England (DBS every three years as per current guidelines)
- Provide coaches with access to safeguarding training at least every three years
- Ensure that all volunteers are recruited in accordance with Badminton England guidelines
- Support our Welfare Officer to fulfil their role
- Adopt the Badminton England Codes of Conduct for players, parents and coaches

Practices that should ***never occur*** under any circumstances

Individuals, neither paid nor unpaid should ever:

- Transport a young person in a car alone
- Spend time with young people away from others
- Invite a young person to stay at their home
- Share a room with a young person
- Engage in rough, physically or sexually provocative games with young people
- Use or allow young people to use inappropriate language
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a young person
- Allow allegations made by a young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Leave children unattended before, during or after a session or tournament where the volunteer or coach has ultimate responsibility
- Do anything that will cause a young person to be undermined, embarrassed or humiliated
- Treat individuals more favourably than others
- Create a dependent relationship between themselves and the young person
- Send or receive private texts, social network messages or emails to a young person without the parents' knowledge or consent.

If you are in any doubt, report your concerns to the WPC Welfare Officer via wpcsafeguarding@outlook.com

Details are on a poster on the WPC noticeboard at The Westgate Badminton Centre)

All concerns raised will be treated in confidence and managed in accordance with Badminton England's policies and procedures for safeguarding.

Other useful contacts/information

Email: safeguarding@badmintonengland.co.uk

Telephone: Badminton England Head Office: 01908 268400

Website: www.badmintonengland.co.uk/safeguarding

Safeguarding Manager: Victoria Brown: 07738 890309

Safeguarding Case Officer: Angela Toon: 07901 005320

County Welfare Officer: Cristina Mitchell: 07825 278432 / cristinamitchell@gmail.com (Hampshire Badminton association)

Codes of Conduct

Code of Conduct - Players

The Players Code of Conduct applies to all individuals participating in badminton as a player at every level. If the code is breached and reported, all complaints and allegations will be acted upon according to the Badminton England Disciplinary Regulations and/or Child Protection Disciplinary Procedures.

Players WILL:

- Show respect for and treat everyone equally regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, social status or sexual orientation. Everyone has the right to be protected from abuse
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person within the context of badminton
- Play within the laws of the game and respect all officials and their decisions
- Accept the referee's decision without question or complaint (let your captain or coach ask the necessary questions)
- Help injured players and opponents
- Take personal responsibility to ensure that they are suitably insured for their activities
- Wear appropriate clothing for playing badminton during training and competition
- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams.
- Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the game's outcome
- Keep to agreed times for training and competitions, and inform the appropriate person if they need to withdraw or cannot avoid being late
- Be willing to represent their team and/or county within their own age group, irrespective of whether or not they play for an older age group

Players WILL NOT:

- Smoke, vape, consume alcohol or illegal substances in a space that might be seen as inappropriate
- Use any language /gestures that may cause offence to anyone on the grounds of their age, ability, sex, disability, race, background, gender status or sexual orientation
- Condone behaviour that contravenes the Badminton England Codes of Conduct or prohibited practice

- Use illegal or dangerous tactics
- Ridicule or shout at other players for making a mistake or losing a game
- Use social or any other electronic media to publicly criticise any other player or official involved in the game of badminton or otherwise bring the sport into disrepute through inappropriate communications

Code of Conduct - Parents/Carers

The Parents' Code of Conduct applies to all parents and carers at any badminton match or training session at every level of the game. If the code is breached and reported, all complaints and allegations will be acted upon according to the Badminton England Disciplinary Regulations or Child Protection Disciplinary Procedures.

Parents/Carers WILL:

- Focus on the child's efforts and enjoyment rather than winning or losing
- Provide positive verbal feedback in both training and matches
- Encourage players to participate within the rules and regulations of the game
- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams
- Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the game's outcome
- Respect the decisions of officials and teach children to do the same
- Respect umpires, officials, coaches, players and spectators
- Inform the team coach or manager of any injury, health or welfare issue that you feel it is appropriate for them to know
- Ensure that their child/children arrive and are collected promptly for training and competitions
- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours
- Treat everyone equally and fairly regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, social status or sexual orientation. Everyone has the right to be protected from abuse
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person within the context of badminton
- Report any concerns you may have in relation to a young person, follow reporting procedures laid down by Badminton England
- Challenge and/or report discriminatory behaviour, or behaviour that contravenes Badminton England Codes of Conduct

Parents/Carers WILL NOT:

- Agree to their child being transported in a car alone with a coach
- Force their child/children to participate in badminton
- Drop their child off at training or a competition without escorting them into the venue
- Ridicule or shout at their child/children or other players for making a mistake or losing a game
- Question publicly the referee, coach, official or players' decisions within a game, match or training situation
- Enter the court of play
- Use any language /gestures that may cause offence to anyone on the grounds of their age, ability, sex, disability, race, background, gender status or sexual orientation
- Condone behaviour that contravenes the Badminton England codes of conduct/prohibited practice
- Give young people alcohol, cigarettes or drugs when they are under the care of the Region/County or Club

Code of Conduct - Coaches

The Coaches Code of Conduct applies to all coaches in badminton at every level of the game. If the code is breached and reported, all complaints and allegations will be acted upon according to the Badminton England Disciplinary Regulations or Child Protection Disciplinary Procedures.

Coaches will:

- Treat everyone equally and fairly regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, social background, status or sexual orientation. Everyone has the right to be protected from abuse
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person within the context of badminton
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and developments and maintain appropriate insurance
- Ensure that equipment, facilities and activities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of the players taking part
- Ensure there is appropriate and correct supervision of players on and off the court
- Be aware of and abide by Badminton England Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Policy, Procedures and Guidelines

- Remember that players participate for pleasure and winning is part of the fun
- Operate within the rules and spirit of badminton and teach your players to do the same
- Ensure that the player's best interests are placed first, before those of the club, team or him/herself
- Display high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Provide positive feedback to all players during training and matches
- Respect all referee decisions and ensure players do the same
- Report any concerns you may have in relation to a young person, follow reporting procedures laid down by Badminton England
- Challenge and/or report discriminatory behaviour
- Applaud good performance and efforts and from all individuals and teams
- Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the outcome

Coaches WILL NOT:

- Transport a young person in a car alone
- Ridicule or shout at a player/team for making a mistake or not winning
- Expose players to extreme heat or cold or unacceptable risk of injury
- Smoke while working/participating in a badminton environment
- Consume alcohol or illegal substances while working/participating in a badminton environment
- Use foul, sexist or racist language or gestures at any time
- Condone behaviour that contravenes the codes of conduct/prohibited practice
- Engage in any form of sexually related contact with a young player*. This is strictly forbidden as is sexual innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms
- Give young people alcohol or cigarettes or drugs when they are under the care of the Region/County or Club.

For a further explanation of rights and responsibilities of a coach on the Badminton England Coaching Register – please see www.badmintonengland.co.uk/coachaccreditation.

*In accordance with the Positions of Trust within the Sexual Offences Act and Badminton England Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Badminton Policy.

I have read the Westgate Performance Centre Safeguarding Protocol (in conjunction with the Badminton England Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Policy) and will adhere to the principles and procedures within it.

This policy will be shared with all players/parents and coaches.