

Taran Tywi Thunder Pickleball Club

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Date of Issue: 14.1.2025

Date of Next Review: 14.1.2026



1. Our Commitment to Safeguarding

Taran Tywi Thunder Pickleball Club (the "Club") is fully committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all children and vulnerable adults involved in our activities. We believe that all children and vulnerable adults have the right to be protected from harm and abuse, and to participate in sport in a safe, fun, and inclusive environment.

This policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding and our procedures for promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and protecting them from harm. *We will do this by:*

- *Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.*
- *Ensuring robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in place.*
- *Recruiting, training, and supporting our staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to safeguarding concerns.*
- *Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, parents, staff, and volunteers.*
- *Ensuring that any concerns about a child or vulnerable adult's welfare are acted upon promptly and appropriately, in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance.*

This policy applies to all individuals involved with the Club, including paid staff, volunteers, coaches, committee members, members, parents, and visitors.

2. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is to:

- Provide a clear framework for protecting children and vulnerable adults within the Club.
- Define the roles and responsibilities of all individuals involved in safeguarding.
- Outline clear procedures for reporting and responding to safeguarding concerns.
- Ensure that all Club activities are conducted in a manner that promotes the safety and well-being of all participants.

This policy applies to all Club activities, events, and communications, both online and offline.

3. Definitions

- **Safeguarding:** Protecting children and vulnerable adults from abuse and neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, *and ensuring they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, enabling them to have optimum life chances.*
- **Child:** Any person under the age of 18 years.
- **Vulnerable Adult:** An adult (a person aged 18 or over) who *has care and support needs (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and, as a result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect.* This can include individuals who have needs related to:
 - Age (e.g., frailty)
 - Physical, mental, or learning disability
 - Serious illness or injury
 - Substance misuse
 - Mental health challenges
- **Abuse:** The mistreatment or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult that causes harm or injury. *This can include:*
 - **Physical Abuse:** *Causing physical harm.*
 - **Emotional Abuse:** *Persistent emotional ill-treatment.*
 - **Sexual Abuse:** *Involving a child in sexual activity or exposing them to it.*
 - **Neglect:** *Persistent failure to meet a child's basic needs.*
 - **Financial Abuse:** *Misuse of a vulnerable adult's money or assets.*
 - **Discriminatory Abuse:** *Abuse based on a protected characteristic (e.g., race, gender, disability).*
 - **Organisational Abuse:** *Poor practices within an institution.*
 - **Domestic Abuse:** *Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.*
 - **Modern Slavery:** *Human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.*
 - **Self-neglect:** *Neglect of one's own needs, including personal hygiene, health or environment.*
- **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):** The named person within the Club with lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.

4. Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

The Club has appointed a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) who will act as the first point of contact for all safeguarding concerns and queries.

- **Name:** Llinos Priestland
- **Email:** [Insert Email]
- **Phone:** [Insert Phone Number]

Key Responsibilities of the DSO:

- To act as the first point of contact for all staff, volunteers, members, parents, and children regarding safeguarding concerns.
- To manage and record all safeguarding concerns raised within the Club.
- *To provide advice and guidance to staff and volunteers on safeguarding matters.*

- To ensure that all safeguarding concerns are reported and acted upon promptly and appropriately, in accordance with this policy and external agency procedures.
- *To liaise with external agencies, including Local Authority Children's Services (MASH/Front Door), the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), and the Police, where appropriate.*
- *To maintain confidential safeguarding records securely.*
- To oversee the implementation of the Club's safeguarding policies and procedures.
- *To ensure that all relevant staff and volunteers undertake appropriate safeguarding training.*
- *To keep up-to-date with current safeguarding legislation, guidance, and best practice.*
- To report to the Club Committee on safeguarding matters.

In the absence of the DSO, please contact: *[Insert Name/Role of Deputy, if applicable, or state who to contact]*

5. Recruitment and Training

The Club is committed to safer recruitment practices to minimise the risk of unsuitable individuals working with children and vulnerable adults.

- **Background Checks (DBS Checks):** All staff, volunteers, and committee members who will be engaging in regulated activity with children or vulnerable adults (as defined by the Disclosure and Barring Service) will be required to undergo an **Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check**. These checks will be processed and managed in accordance with Pickleball England/Wales and legal requirements. DBS checks will be reviewed and renewed periodically as required by law or best practice.
- **References and Interviews:** *Robust interview processes and reference checks will be conducted for all roles involving contact with children or vulnerable adults.*
- **Induction:** *All new staff and volunteers will receive an induction that includes a thorough review of this Safeguarding Policy, the Club's Codes of Conduct, and clear instructions on reporting procedures.*
- **Safeguarding Training:** All staff and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults will undertake appropriate safeguarding training, which will be regularly updated (*e.g., every 3 years*). *This training will help them recognise, respond to, and report safeguarding concerns.*

6. Reporting Concerns and Responding to Disclosures

6.1 Reporting a Concern If any member of staff, volunteer, or parent has a concern about a child or vulnerable adult's safety or welfare, or about the behaviour of an adult towards a child or vulnerable adult, they *must* report it immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

How to Report a Concern:

1. ***Do not delay.*** Report immediately.
2. ***Inform the DSO:*** Contact *[Insert DSO Name]* directly via *[Phone Number]* or *[Email Address]*.
3. ***Record the information:*** As soon as possible after reporting, complete a written record of the concern. Use an objective, factual account, noting dates, times, and specific details. ***Do not add personal opinions or interpretations.***

- *A template for recording concerns will be provided by the DSO/be available on the Club website.*

6.2 Responding to a Disclosure (If a child or vulnerable adult tells you something) If a child or vulnerable adult makes a disclosure of abuse or harm:

- **Listen carefully:** Let them tell you what they want to say.
- **Reassure them:** Tell them they have done the right thing by telling you.
- **Do not promise confidentiality:** Explain that you cannot keep secrets, but you will only tell people who need to know to help them.
- **Do not ask leading questions:** Do not prompt or interrupt. Let them use their own words.
- **Do not investigate:** It is not your role to investigate.
- **Record accurately:** Make a written record of what was said, using their exact words where possible, as soon as you can after the conversation.
- **Report immediately:** Inform the DSO immediately.

6.3 DSO's Response and External Referrals Upon receiving a concern or disclosure, the DSO will:

1. **Assess the immediate risk:** Ensure the child or vulnerable adult is safe.
2. **Record the concern:** Create a detailed, factual record.
3. **Consult and Refer:**
 - Where there is a concern that a child or vulnerable adult may be at risk of significant harm, the DSO will immediately refer the matter to the relevant **Local Authority Children's Services (MASH/Front Door)** or **Adult Social Care** as appropriate, and/or the **Police**.
 - The DSO will act in accordance with local multi-agency safeguarding procedures (e.g., "Working Together to Safeguard Children" in England, or equivalent in Wales).
 - The DSO will inform the Club Committee Chair, maintaining confidentiality as appropriate.

Contact Details for External Agencies (for DSO use):

- **Local Authority Children's Services (MASH/Front Door):** *[Insert Name of Local Authority]*
 - *Phone: [Insert Phone Number]*
 - *Out of Hours: [Insert Phone Number]*
- **Police (non-emergency):** 101
- **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000 *(for advice and support)*
- **Childline:** 0800 1111 *(for children)*

7. Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers

Any allegation of abuse or inappropriate behaviour made against a staff member, volunteer, coach, or committee member must be taken seriously and reported immediately to the DSO.

If the allegation is against the DSO, it should be reported to the Club Committee Chair or Club Secretary.

Procedure for Managing Allegations:

1. **Immediate Reporting:** Report the allegation immediately to the DSO (or alternative senior official).
2. **No Investigation by Club:** The Club will not undertake its own investigation into the allegation. This is the responsibility of specialist agencies.
3. **LADO Referral:** The DSO will contact the **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)** in the relevant local authority area immediately. The LADO provides advice and guidance on how to manage allegations against those who work with children.
 - **LADO Contact for [Your Local Authority]:** [Insert Name, Phone, Email - Crucial for quick action]
4. **Support for Alleged Perpetrator:** The Club will ensure fair treatment and support for the person against whom the allegation has been made, while prioritising the safety of the child or vulnerable adult. Suspension from duties may be considered if necessary to protect children or vulnerable adults, or to ensure a fair investigation.
5. **Confidentiality:** All information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality, shared only on a "need-to-know" basis with relevant statutory agencies.

8. Codes of Conduct

All individuals involved with Taran Tywi Thunder Pickleball Club are expected to adhere to the Club's Code of Conduct. *high standards of behaviour. Separate Codes of Conduct are in place for:*

- **Staff and Volunteers:** *Outlining expected professional conduct, boundaries, and appropriate behaviour with children and vulnerable adults.*
- **Children/Young People:** *Detailing expected behaviour, respect for others, and how to raise concerns.*
- **Parents/Carers:** *Setting expectations for supportive behaviour, respect for coaches and officials, and appropriate involvement.*

These Codes of Conduct will be available on the Club website and communicated during induction.

9. Online Safety and Social Media

The Club recognises the importance of online safety and the need to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm in the digital environment.

- All online communications with children and vulnerable adults should be transparent and appropriate.
- Staff and volunteers should only communicate with children through official club channels where possible, or with parents/carers included.
- Personal social media accounts should not be used for direct, private communication with children.
- Guidance on appropriate social media use will be provided to all staff, volunteers, and members.
- Any concerns about inappropriate online behaviour or content should be reported to the DSO.

10. Photography and Filming

The Club has a policy on photography and filming of children during club activities.

- Parental consent will be obtained for the photography and filming of children, particularly for promotional materials.
- Parents and spectators will be requested to respect privacy and not share images of other children without permission.
- Any concerns about inappropriate photography or filming should be reported to the DSO.

11. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

All safeguarding concerns will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Information will only be shared on a "need-to-know" basis, and only with those who need to know in order to protect the child or vulnerable adult, or as required by law. The Club will adhere to GDPR principles when handling sensitive personal information related to safeguarding.

12. Policy Review and Implementation

12.1 Review of Policy This Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will be reviewed annually by the Club Committee, or sooner if there are changes in legislation, guidance, or Club practice. All updates will be communicated to members, staff, and volunteers.

12.2 Implementation This policy will be communicated to all members, staff, and volunteers at the Club. It will be readily available on the club's website and during induction training for new members and staff.

13. Related Club Policies and Documents (Where applicable)

- *Codes of Conduct (for Staff/Volunteers, Children, Parents)*
- *Anti-Bullying Policy*
- *Complaints Procedure*
- *Data Protection/GDPR Policy*
- *Photography/Filming Consent Forms*

Signed on behalf of Taran Tywi Thunder Pickleball Club:

Name: [Insert Name of Club Chair/Secretary]

Role: [Insert Role]

Date: [Insert Date]

