



Badminton England

Safeguarding Adults Policy

Document History and Change Control

Date policy change approved by the Board of Directors	Change occurrence	Date last reviewed	Date for next review	File stored
9 Oct 2024	Policy rewritten to reflect current best practice guidance from Ann Craft Trust and procedural information removed.	October 2024	October 2026	
25 May 2022	General update and clarification of terminology; renaming of policy	December 2020	May 2024	
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SAFEGUARDING ADULTS POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Badminton England is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for everyone to enjoy badminton. We accept our responsibility for safeguarding adults at all levels in accordance with legislation.¹
- 1.2 We know that sport has the power to play an undeniably significant role in our wellbeing and it is widely recognised that, for more people to play and enjoy their sport, they need to feel supported and be safe. The importance of this has never been greater.
- 1.3 We will provide the best safeguarding standards, upholding the rights of all adults to live a life free from harm, abuse, exploitation and neglect. This extends to recognising and reporting harm experienced anywhere, including within our activities, in the community, in the person's own home and in any care setting.
- 1.4 Our Safeguarding Adults Policy applies to all adults involved in our sport.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of our Safeguarding Adults Policy is to:
 - Demonstrate the commitment of Badminton England to safeguarding adults and stop abuse and neglect wherever possible.
 - Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live.
 - Raise awareness so that the badminton community, alongside Badminton England, play their part in identifying and preventing abuse and neglect.

¹ The Care Act 2014

3. Principles

3.1 This Policy has been developed on the following principles:

- 3.1.1 Everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.
- 3.1.2 Badminton England is committed to creating and maintaining safe and positive environments and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.
- 3.1.3 Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and we are committed to preventing abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved in our activities.
- 3.1.4 Health, wellbeing, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. We recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.
- 3.1.5 Badminton England recognises that there is a legal framework within which sports need to work to safeguard adults who have needs for care and support and for protecting those who are unable to take action to protect themselves. We will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding adult legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.
- 3.1.6 Actions taken by Badminton England will be consistent with the principles of adult safeguarding ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the adult concerned.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Badminton England will have responsibility for:

- 4.1.1 Setting clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of everyone through the provision of training, education, policies and procedures.
- 4.1.2 Developing and implementing safeguarding standards across the sport at all levels and across all ages.
- 4.1.3 Ensuring a clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all involved in the sport.
- 4.1.3 Ensuring the badminton community is aware of the safeguarding adult procedures and knows what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult.

- 4.1.4 Taking action by promptly responding to any concern shared in line with the Badminton England Safeguarding Adults Policy and supporting procedures.
- 4.1.5 Actively supporting adults to communicate their views and the outcomes they want to achieve. Those views and wishes will be respected and supported unless there are overriding reasons not to.
- 4.1.6 Taking action when concerns are reported that respects the rights and dignity of all those involved and be proportionate to the risk of harm.
- 4.1.7 Having arrangements in place to work effectively with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare all individuals.
- 4.1.8 Maintaining confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns, keeping all information secure in line with our Data Protection Policy and supporting procedures.
- 4.1.8 Following safe recruitment practices to assess the suitability of volunteers and staff to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals within the badminton community.
- 4.1.9 Considering the risk to the safety of all adults from abuse and neglect when planning activities and events.

4.2 Badminton England County Associations are required to:

- 4.2.1 Adopt and implement the Badminton England Safeguarding Adults Policy and endorse safeguarding best practice in their association.
- 4.2.2 Appoint a County Welfare Officer in line with the Badminton England supporting guidance.
- 4.2.3 Ensure that all county committee members, coaches and relevant personnel are aware of their responsibility for safeguarding adults in badminton.
- 4.2.4 Implement a policy of best practice and adhere to the Badminton England Codes of Ethics and Behaviour.
- 4.2.5 Follow safe recruitment practices to assess the suitability of volunteers and staff to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals within the badminton community.
- 4.2.6 Ensure that all concerns and reported cases are managed in line with Badminton England policy and procedures, this includes effective reporting to national level.

4.2.7 Ensure, as a minimum, that all affiliated clubs and affiliated clubs competing in leagues within the county, adhere to the Badminton England Safeguarding Adults Policy and follow best practice.

4.2.8 Support Club Welfare Officers to fulfil their role and responsibilities.

4.3 All Badminton England affiliated clubs and environments are required to:

4.3.1 Adopt and implement the Badminton England Safeguarding Adults Policy, procedures and guidelines.

4.3.2 Appoint a Club Welfare Officer in line with the Badminton England guidelines and role description.

4.3.3 Provide access to appropriate training and support.

4.3.4 Ensure that all everyone, including coaches and club members are aware of their responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of everyone.

4.3.5 Implement a policy of best practice and adhere to the Badminton England Codes of Ethics and Behaviour.

4.3.6 Follow safe recruitment practices to assess the suitability of volunteers and staff to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals within the badminton community.

4.3.7 Ensure that all concerns and reported cases are managed in line with Badminton England Policy and procedures.

5. Consequences

5.1 Individuals who do not observe best practice, breach the Badminton England Safeguarding Adults Policy and/or the Badminton England Codes of Ethics and Behaviour will be investigated in accordance with the Badminton England Disciplinary Regulations.

5.2 It shall be a ground for action to be taken where an organisation/person over whom Badminton England has jurisdiction is found to have harmed the safety and/or welfare of any individual, or whose conduct (whether in badminton or not) is deemed to pose an actual or potential risk of harm to the safety and/or welfare of others.

6. Whistleblowing

- 6.1 All suspicions and allegations must be taken seriously and appropriately reported. Not acting is not an option and in certain circumstances non reporting of a concern may be considered a disciplinary issue.
- 6.2 Individuals may not express concerns because they fear harassment or victimisation. In these circumstances it is important to understand these feelings but not to allow them to interfere with the need to ensure that concerns are reported appropriately.
- 6.3 Badminton England is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, honesty and accountability. Any individual who reports a concern relating to the welfare of others, poor practice or possible abuse in good faith will be supported. This extends to participants, coaches, volunteers, parents, officials or members of the public wishing to raise a safeguarding concern.
- 6.4 All information received will be treated in confidence and only shared on a 'need to know' basis with those individuals who will be able to manage and resolve the situation. It may also be necessary to seek advice from and/or inform the statutory agencies e.g. the police or the Local Authority.
- 6.5 If any individual is not satisfied with the response from Badminton England and believe that any adult remains at risk of abuse or harm, they should contact their local police and/or their Local Authority Adult Social Care.

7. Monitoring and Review

- 7.1 This policy and the supporting procedures shall be reviewed no less than every two years and whenever there are changes in relevant legislation and/or government guidance, as required by the Local Safeguarding Board, UK Sport, Sport England or as a result of any other significant change or event.

8. Relevant Policies

- 8.1 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Badminton England policies and supporting documents:
- Badminton England Safeguarding Adults Supporting Procedures
 - Badminton England Codes of Behaviour and Ethics
 - Badminton England Disciplinary Regulations
 - Equality and Diversity Policy

Available from the Badminton England website: www.badmintonengland.co.uk