

**Essex Junior Squash**

# **Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy Statement**

Version 1

September 2024

## **The purpose and scope of this policy statement**

Essex Junior Squash (“EJS”) is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment. EJS accepts our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people involved in EJS in accordance with the relevant legislation, regulations, and guidance.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who take part in EJS activities, at all levels, from harm; and
- to provide committee members, coaches, volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone operating on behalf of EJS, including committee members, coaches, volunteers and service providers.

EJS adopts and incorporates all policies and procedures as set out by our national governing body, England Squash.<sup>2</sup> Please see England Squash’s webpage “Safe Squash” for further information.

EJS encourages all members and clubs in Essex to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice of equality as set out in this Safeguarding Policy.

## **Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system>.

EJS will review this policy annually to ensure it is compliant with the relevant legislation. In the event of a significant change to the law, EJS will review and amend this policy as necessary.

## **Supporting documents**

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- Role description of the designated Welfare Officer provided by England Squash: <https://data.englishsquash.com/files?fileName=258ecee2-7b4b-4678-bf4f-bfbcccfac9b5.docx>

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<sup>1</sup> Including under the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004

<sup>2</sup><https://data.englishsquash.com/files?fileName=Amended%20Safeguarding%20Policy%2014.09.21.pdf>

- Reporting and dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person, drafted in accordance with England Squash’s “safeguarding children and young people” policy, at paragraph 6:  
<https://data.englandsquash.com/files?fileName=Amended%20Safeguarding%20Policy%2014.09.21.pdf#page15>
- Anti-bullying policy: [LINK]

**We believe that**

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind; and
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

**We recognise that:**

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take;
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, coaches, volunteers and other EJS service providers is essential in promoting young people’s welfare;
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues; and
- Extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

**We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:**

- Valuing, listening and respecting them;
- Appointing a nominated Welfare Officer for children and young people, who sits on the EJS committee, and a deputy Welfare Officer;
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for coaches, EJS committee members and other service providers;
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures;
- Providing support for coaches, volunteers and service providers through supervision, support, referrals to resources and training, so that all those involved in the running of EJS follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidentially and competently;

- Recruiting and selecting coaches, volunteers, service providers and ESJ committee members safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made;
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance: [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#) ;
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, and discussions;
- Making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern;
- Using England Squash's safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately;
- Using England Squash's procedures to manage any allegations against coaches, volunteers, EJS committee members and service providers appropriately;
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise;
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place;
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our young children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance; and
- Building a safeguarding culture where coaches and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable sharing concerns.

### **Contact Details**

Welfare Officer:

- Name: Gemma Walton
- Email: [gwalton.squash@gmail.com](mailto:gwalton.squash@gmail.com)

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

Childline: 0800 1111

