

KENT PETANQUE ASSOCIATION POLICY STATEMENT AND GUIDELINES ON SAFEGUARDING

What is Safeguarding

Safeguarding refers to the process of protecting the health, wellbeing and human rights of children and vulnerable adults, enabling them to participate in Pétanque safely and from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and to reduce risks.

The following will endeavour to provide Kent Pétanque Association's (KPA) Safeguarding principles to be observed by all members.

Kent Pétanque Association (KPA) has a duty of care and is committed to promoting the safety and welfare of junior members and vulnerable adults in accordance with the Pétanque England (formerly EPA) Safeguarding and Policy Statements incorporating all programmes and competitions run by KPA.

Within this statement the KPA will endeavour to minimise risk and deliver a positive playing/social experience and address all safeguarding concerns and disclosures.

This statement is applicable to ALL volunteers, KPA Committee members, Coaches and all other users and visitors to Clubs and involvement in KPA events, in line with Pétanque England (PE) safeguarding policy and procedures.

KPA will ensure advice, guidance and support is available through the KPA Safeguarding Officer and in their absence, by the KPA Chairman.

KPA Safeguarding Officer will have responsibility for the implementation of Safeguarding, Code of Conduct and Reporting procedures.

The KPA Safeguarding Officer along with the Chair of the Committee and Committee Members will have overall accountability for the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy.

The Safeguarding Officer will have responsibility for Updating this Policy when necessary.

All Members of the KPA are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct for Players or non- members taking part in any form of play and/or events.

All members should make themselves familiar with the social media/photography guidelines as this affect ALL who use mobile phones for photography and video purposes. PERMISSION IS REQUIRED!

Reporting safeguarding disclosures/concerns

An individual who is told/made aware of concerns/disclosures is responsible for reporting them to the Safeguarding Officer unless someone is in immediate danger then the Team Captain/Police should be informed.

KPA safeguarding officer and /or KPA Chairman are responsible for assessing the situation/s and follow up in liaison with the Club concerned.

Depending on the concerns/disclosure, referral may progress to the Police, Local Authority (children and families, or Local Authority Adult Services.

The Chair of the KPA committee along with the Safeguarding Officer will be responsible to assess concerns/disclosures about members of the KPA committee, Coaches or Umpires and if appropriate refer on to the Police and/or the PE Safeguarding Officer who will then decide if action should be taken.

Breaches of the Safeguarding Policy and failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, Termination of current role/roles, ban on playing pétanque in the Kent and informing the PE safeguarding officer.

The KPA are committed to the highest possible standards of openness, and accountability and integrity, when assessing/investigating. As an Association we are also committed to encouraging and maintaining a culture where people feel safe and able to raise genuine concerns regarding Safeguarding and that their concerns be treated with the highest confidentiality where possible. If direct harm is caused to a child or vulnerable adult the information will be shared with the police.

How to raise concerns

If a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger the Police should be contacted by ringing 999.

Where no immediate danger is present then concerns should be raised either to the Team Captain and Safeguarding Officer.

When raising concerns, the following should be included:

As much information as possible about the situation.

The name and address or club of the person concerned.

Date and time of the situation being reported and location.

Names of any other witnesses.

Where possible the KPA safeguarding disclosure/incident form should be completed.

Empowerment

This is about people being in a supported environment encouraged to make their own decisions and giving informed consent. It is about conveying what abuse is and ensuring that children and vulnerable adults understand what they can do to keep themselves safe. They can speak to the Police, or a person with whom they feel comfortable.

Contact details for Kent Pétanque Safeguarding officer can be found on Kent's website under details of Committee members.

ALL INFORMATION ON SAFEGUARDING ISSUES CAN BE FOUND ON THE KPA WEBSITE.

PLEASE READ THEM AS IT MAY AFFECT YOU!

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY. NOT RESPONDING TO THESE UNDER THE GUIDELINES IS NOT AN OPTION.

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