

Sussex Junior Chess Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy

Whilst the primary function of SJC is to promote chess, it recognises its responsibility for the welfare of children and vulnerable adults attending events it organises.

It is the policy of the ECF to safeguard the welfare of all people attending its events by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

COACHES

In all but exceptions circumstances, SJC coaches will have current CRB checks before coaching at SJC events. In the rare event where this is not possible or appropriate (e.g. when the coaches are current junior players), the event organiser will oversee the training.

All coaches are required to abide by the code of conduct for coaches.

GUIDELINES

These guidelines apply to any person acting in an official capacity on behalf of SJC at any SJC organised event. In particular this includes organisers, controllers and arbiters.

a) If you suspect a child is being abused:-

- 1) immediately inform one of the SJC organisers or coaches
- 2) record the facts as you know them and give a copy to the SJC official
- 3) ensure that the child has access to an independent adult
- 4) ensure that no situation arises which could cause further concern
- 5) ensure access to confidential information is restricted to appropriate officials on a 'need to know' basis.

b) If a child tells you about abuse by someone else

- 1) allow the child to speak without interruption, accepting what is said.
- 2) alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement
- 3) advise that you will try to offer support, but that you must pass the information on
- 4) same steps as 1 – 5 above

c) If you receive any allegation of abuse about any adult or about yourself

- 1) Immediately inform the SJC official in charge of the event
- 2) record the facts as you know them and give a copy to the SJC official
- 3) try to ensure that no-one is placed in a position which could cause further compromise

The SJC official will take action which may include contacting the social services or the police

Notes on Unacceptable Behaviour by Children

- ★ Participants should be encouraged to develop a sense of right and wrong behaviour.
- ★ Where unacceptable behaviour does take place, appropriate sanctions, decided by a consensus of responsible people present, should be applied to modify the behaviour
- ★ Sanctions applied to each case should take account of the age and stage of development of the young person, be given at the right time, be relevant to the action and be fair
- ★ The participant must always be told why the behaviour is unacceptable and the reasons for applying a particular sanction

- ★ Corporal punishment (smacking, slapping or shaking) is illegal and therefore should never be used. It is permissible to take necessary physical action in an emergency to prevent personal injury, either to the young person, other participants or adults, or serious damage to property
- ★ Participants should not be shouted at directly, though raising of the voice is permissible in instances where it is necessary to be heard