

The Suffolk Badminton Association agreed at the Annual General Meeting in May to implement the Child Protection Policy of BADMINTON England.

Our objective is to support and protect both the young people (Under 18) who play the game and the adults who are involved with junior activities.

The risks can be divided into two categories :-

- * danger to children
 - * risks to coaches / clubs who may be accused of negligence or impropriety.
- It follows therefore that you need to be satisfied that any members of your club involved with children are competent and trustworthy.

Child Safety

- * Specify the earliest arrival time before any event and the latest completion time. Do not leave children on their own after an event.
- * Ensure that the venue is safe and fit for the purpose.
- * Ensure that first aid facilities are readily available.
- * Ensure that parents know the start and finish times of any event.
- * Ensure that parents have details of your club / county's complaints procedure.

Advice to Coaches

- * Be aware of all of the Child Safety issues above.
- * Try not to be alone with a child, if it can be avoided.
- * Be cautious in making physical contact with a child.
- * Be cautious in conversation with a child.
- * Be aware of the sensitivity of photography.

We realise that most coaches / players will already follow this advice simply by using their common sense. It is, however, worth noting that the advice also applies to young people (under 18) when travelling to or playing in matches or tournaments.

Suffolk BA has established a complaints procedure for children or parents who do not feel able to discuss any issues directly with the person concerned.

Child Welfare Officer A.J. Bristow 01638 713967

We also recommend that all relevant members of your club (those who help or coach young people) should attend a course on Child Protection and, where appropriate, obtain a qualification by attending a BADMINTON England Coaches' course which entitles you to become a member of the Coaches' Register and obtain the excellent insurance package it includes.

Finally we recommend that all junior clubs and junior members of senior clubs should affiliate to BADMINTON England and to Suffolk BA.

If your club is involved with juniors (anyone under 18) whether coaching or playing, please draw this document to the attention of your committee. Although problems are rare, we do live in times of increasing litigation and claims can be substantial, affecting both clubs and individuals.

Anyone requiring further information should access a full copy of the Child Protection Policy, available to download from www.badmintonengland.co.uk or contact the Development Department on 01908 268400