

Child Protection Policy

In May 2005, the Council of the BADMINTON England adopted a revised Child Protection Policy for badminton endorsing a document entitled "Child Protection Policy and Implementation Procedures in Badminton".

Foreword

Badminton can and does have a very powerful and positive influence on people – especially young people. Not only can it provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement; it can also develop valuable qualities such as self-esteem, leadership and teamwork. These positive effects can only take place if Badminton is in the right hands – in the hands of those who place the welfare of all young people first and adopt practices that support, protect and empower them.

The reality is that abuse does take place in sport and in some cases coaches and other trusted adults in sport have been convicted of abusing children. BADMINTON England recognises that despite all the benefits of participation, sport can provide easy access to children and present opportunities for an individual who wants to harm children. BADMINTON England accepts that the welfare and safety of young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of everyone, whether working in a professional or voluntary capacity. Every adult has a legal and moral responsibility to protect young people from abuse when involved in Badminton.

Important

*Please note that the term **parents** is used throughout this document as a generic term to represent parents, carers and guardians.*

*Please note that the term **young people** also refers to players with disabilities and vulnerable adults.*

Regulation

1. All individuals at all levels involved in Badminton through BADMINTON England, must abide by BADMINTON England's Child Protection Policy and the Code of Ethics and Conduct ('the Code') and all individuals, by participating or being involved in Badminton through BADMINTON England are deemed to have assented to and thereby adhere to the principles and responsibilities embodied in these documents.
2. Each and every constituent member of BADMINTON England including, without limitation, all clubs and leagues shall be responsible for the implementation of the Child Protection Policy and Procedures in Badminton in relation to their individual members.
3. Any act, statement or other behaviour that harms a child or group of children or poses a risk of harm to a child or group of children shall constitute conduct that is improper and thereby brings Badminton into disrepute. Such conduct will be dealt with, at the appropriate level, through the Disciplinary Procedure.

Responding to Disclosure, Suspicion or Allegations

It is not the responsibility of anyone working for BADMINTON England or affiliated organisations in any capacity, whether paid or voluntary, to decide whether or not child abuse is taking place or to investigate it. It is the responsibility of everyone in Badminton, however, to ensure that action is taken to ensure that a child is protected appropriately.

Who to contact

Should you be concerned about the welfare of a young person you should contact a Child Welfare Officer immediately at either club, county or at national level who will follow the procedures detailed below.

The **Child Welfare Officer** is a key role within Badminton and is crucial in ensuring that BADMINTON England's Child Protection Policy and Implementation Procedures work in practice. The Child Welfare Officer acts as the first point of contact for anyone (staff, volunteer, parents or children) who has a concern about a child and about poor practice/possible abuse by adults working with children. Each County will have a designated officer for Child Welfare, and so will an ever increasing amount of junior clubs.

If a Child Welfare Officer cannot be contacted or is the subject of the allegation, then the person that has the concerns about the young person's welfare must act themselves. If you become aware of a possible abuse situation then you should document your concerns and seek immediate advice from the local Social Services or Police who will advise on the action to be taken.