



## Child Protection Policy

<b>Policy Name</b>	Child Protection Policy
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This policy exists in conjunction with policies laid out by The British Para Ice Hockey Association and England Ice Hockey



## Foreword

The Sheffield Steelkings acknowledge the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and is committed to ensuring that safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance, and complies with best practice.

## Scope

This policy applies to all players and volunteers of the Sheffield Steelkings, and aims to:

- Protect children and young people from harm.
- Provide players and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with principals that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are principal in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, disability or ability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background all children:

- Have a positive and enjoyable experience at the club, in a safe environment.
- Are protected from abuse whilst participating in activities provided by the Sheffield Steelkings.

## We Recognise That:

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take 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.



- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

## **We Will Seek to Keep Children and Young People Safe By:**

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a safeguarding officer.
- Undertaking child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures, and code of conduct for players and volunteers.
- Providing effective management for players and volunteers through supervision and support measures, so that all players and volunteers are aware of, and follow, our policies, procedures, and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
- Making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Using our 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 our procedures to manage any allegations against players and volunteers appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have measures in place to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, players, and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Building a safeguarding culture where players and volunteers, including children, young people, and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.
- Ensuring that the safeguarding lead, coaches, and on ice support have DBS checks, which do not indicate any reason why they should be prohibited from working with children or vulnerable adults.



## Appropriate Contact

In general, physical contact between adults and children will not take place. However, where it is deemed essential, physical contact should always be intended to meet the child's needs, not the adult's.

The adult will use appropriate contact when the aim is to assist in the development of a skill or activity, or for safety reasons, e.g. to prevent or treat an injury. Ideally, this will be done in an open environment with the permission and understanding of the child.

In general:

- Contact should be determined by the age and developmental stage of the participant - don't do something that a child can do for themselves.
- Never engage in inappropriate touching that might cause a child distress or embarrassment.

There are several principles that should be followed when the activity involves physical contact.

The adult should only use physical contact if the aim is to:

- Develop sports skills or techniques.
- To treat an injury.
- To prevent an injury or accident from occurring.
- To meet the requirements of the sport.

The adult should seek to explain the nature and reason for the physical contact to the child reinforcing the teaching or coaching skill.

Unless the situation is an emergency, the adult should ask the child for permission prior to any contact being made.

Any form of physical punishment of children is unlawful, as is any form of physical response to misbehaviour unless it is by way of physical intervention to prevent a young person from harming themselves, harming others or damaging property.