

# Broadstairs Chess Club

## Child Protection Policy

### INTRODUCTION

The Board of the English Chess Federation (ECF) has since March 2008 adopted a Child Protection Policy and it strongly recommends that affiliated organisations do likewise. Broadstairs Chess Club wholeheartedly embraces this development.

### POLICY

Whilst the primary function of the ECF is to promote chess, it recognises its responsibility for the welfare of children and vulnerable adults attending events it organises. All adults working with or on behalf of children and vulnerable adults have a responsibility to protect them. It is the policy of the ECF and therefore Broadstairs Chess Club to safeguard the welfare of all people attending its events by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm. This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989 and 2004, Education Act 2002 and related guidance, including Every Child Matters: change for children in schools (2005) and Stopcheck: a step-by-step guide for organisations to safeguard children (NSPCC 2007).

### ELEMENTS OF POLICY

There are three main elements to our child protection policy:

- *prevention* (e.g. positive club atmosphere, coaching and support to juniors)
- *protection* (by following agreed procedures, ensuring all members are supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to child protection concerns)
- *support* (to those who may have been abused)

### OUR COMMITMENT

It is the aim of Broadstairs Chess Club to:

- establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to take part in games of chess, and are listened to
- provide children with equal opportunities to enter club competitions
- ensure that children know that there are adults in the club whom they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty
- ensure that, wherever possible, every effort will be made to establish effective relationships with parents
- encourage parents to attend club nights either as players or spectators

## **CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES**

Child protection is the responsibility of all adults. The role of the club in situations where there are child protection concerns is not to investigate, but to recognise and refer.

a) If a child has any concerns, he or she is encouraged to approach a parent or adult in the club. If an independent contact is preferred, then Mr David Hillard may be contacted on 01843 601742

b) If an adult member has any concerns for a child, he or she should:

- immediately inform the Treasurer, Reg Pidduck
- record the facts as known and give the Treasurer a copy
- ensure that the child has access to an independent adult
- ensure that no situation arises which could cause further concern
- ensure that access to confidential information is restricted to appropriate officials on a 'need to know' basis

c) If a child tells any member about abuse by someone else then:

- allow the child to speak without interruption, accepting what is said
- alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement
- offer support but advise that the information must be passed on
- follow the same steps as above

d) If any allegation of abuse is made about any adult or about oneself

- immediately inform the Treasurer, Reg Pidduck
- record the facts as related and give Reg a copy
- try to ensure that no-one is placed in a position which could cause further compromise

The Treasurer will take appropriate action which may include contacting Children's Social Services or the police.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

*All members of Broadstairs Chess Club must:*

- put these guidelines into practice
- treat everyone with respect
- provide an example they wish others to follow
- plan activities which involve more than one other person being present or at least are within sight or hearing of others; this applies to such activities as one-to-one training and travelling to or from chess events
- respect a young person's right to privacy

- deal with any concerns in a sympathetic and appropriate manner
- encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like
- avoid situations that compromise their relationship with young people and are unacceptable within a relationship of trust
- remember that someone else might misinterpret their actions, no matter how well-intentioned
- recognise that caution is required even in sensitive moments of counselling
- recognise that children with differing abilities have differing requirements
- recognise that children from different backgrounds may have differing values

No member of *Broadstairs Chess Club* may:

- permit abusive peer activities (e.g. bullying, ridiculing)
- have any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with junior members
- show favouritism to any individual
- make suggestive remarks or gestures even in fun
- let suspicion, disclosure or allegation of abuse go unrecorded or unreported
- believe 'it could never happen to me'

*R.G. Page  
Secretary  
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