

Lancashire Chess Association

Child Protection Policy (Adopted September 2009)

Whilst its primary function is to promote chess, Lancashire Chess Association is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people. It recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation.

The Association's officers and other volunteers will endeavour to work together to encourage the development of an ethos which embraces difference and diversity and respects the rights of children, young people and adults.

Lancashire Chess Association will:

- Safeguard the welfare of all people attending its events by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm;
- Ensure that all volunteers understand their legal and moral obligations to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation;
- Develop best practice in relation to the recruitment / appointment of all volunteers.
- Ensure that all volunteers understand their obligations to report care or protection concerns about a child / young person, or a volunteer's conduct towards a child / young person, to the Association's designated person for child protection;
- Ensure that the designated person understands his / her responsibility to refer any child protection concerns to the statutory child protection agencies (i.e. Police and / or Social Services);
- Ensure that children and young people are enabled to express their ideas and views on a wide range of issues;
- Ensure that parents / carers are encouraged to be involved in the work of the Association and, when requested, have access to all guidelines and procedures;
- Endeavour to keep up-to-date with national developments relating to the care and protection of children and young people.

Notes for Guidance

- The English Chess Federation's website provides advice on what is good and bad practice when dealing with children. All volunteers involved in the Lancashire Chess Association's junior chess activities should read that advice and adopt it as appropriate (refer to www.englishchess.org.uk).
- The Lancashire Chess Association (LCA) requires that persons elected to the following posts undergo a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) enhanced clearance at least every three years:
 - LCA President
 - LCA Junior Coordinator
 - LCA U9 and U11 Team Manager(s)

A current certificate obtained for another organisation is acceptable as long as the position is similar in respect of dealing with children and in a similar situation, e.g. coaching / teaching at a school.

The Association will maintain records of CRB enhanced clearance for other volunteers so that such persons can assist at events in lieu of the Association's officers listed above.

- Volunteers without current CRB enhanced clearance must not be left in sole charge of children except in the case of a medical emergency.
- Although nobody at a junior tournament should have unsupervised access to children (by the nature of the event), the Lancashire Chess Association will ensure that the playing area at such events is supervised by at least two adult volunteers with current CRB enhanced clearance. Other adult and junior volunteers may be present in the playing area under their supervision. Outside the playing area the players are assumed to be under the control of their parents.
- The Lancashire Chess Association will ensure that at least one volunteer with current CRB enhanced clearance is present at all events in which the Association has entered a junior team (such as those run by the National Youth Chess Association or the Northern Counties Chess Union). However transport to and from these events, and the time spent at the venue, is the parents' responsibility. The Association may suggest that one child gets a lift with another's parent, but the decision to accept this is entirely down to the parents involved. They must use their own judgement, but as a minimum must ensure that the parent providing transport is also taking their own child.
- When the Lancashire Chess Association organises a training session for a group of juniors it will ensure either that the nominated coaches have current CRB enhanced clearance or that a suitable chaperon with that clearance is in attendance throughout.
- The Lancashire Chess Association will appoint a Child Protection Officer who will be responsible for the implementation of this policy and will maintain records of those individuals who have the appropriate level of CRB clearance.