

Safeguarding Policy

Taunton Pickleball

5th October 2025

1. Policy Statement

Taunton Pickleball is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all participants, coaches and volunteers. We believe that everyone involved in our club, regardless of age, gender, ability, disability, race, religion, or sexual orientation, has the right to be protected from harm, abuse, neglect and bullying. We recognise our shared responsibility to promote the welfare of our adults members and will take all concerns seriously and respond to them swiftly and appropriately.

2. Key Principles

This policy is built on the following core principles:

- **Welfare is Paramount:** The well-being of all our adult members is our primary concern (unless advised, all participants are 18 plus).
 - **Zero Tolerance:** There is a zero-tolerance approach to any form of abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual.
 - **Shared Responsibility:** Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All members, staff, and volunteers have a duty to act appropriately and report concerns.
 - **Openness and Transparency:** The club will maintain an open culture where individuals feel safe to raise concerns without fear of victimisation. The first point of contact would be Sylvia.jackson929@gmail.com
 - **Best Practice:** The club will adhere to the best practices and guidelines set by Pickleball England, our governing body.
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3. Safeguarding Officer

Taunton Pickleball has appointed a **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO), (who is the Group Leader Sylvia Jackson)** who will be the main point of contact for all safeguarding concerns, and who holds a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. The DSO's contact details will be clearly visible and accessible to all members on our website.

Responsibilities of the DSO:

- Acting as the primary contact for all safeguarding concerns.
- Receiving and recording all safeguarding reports.
- Liaising with external agencies when necessary.
- Promoting and regularly reviewing the club's safeguarding policy and procedures.

4. Codes of Conduct

To ensure a safe and respectful environment, all members, coaches and volunteers must adhere to the following codes of conduct which is clearly stated on our website.

- **Respect:** Treat everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of their background or ability.
- **Boundaries:** Maintain appropriate boundaries at all times.
- **Communication:** Communicate openly and professionally. Avoid inappropriate language, jokes, or physical contact.
- **Reporting:** Know and follow the club's reporting procedures for any

5. Reporting Procedures

Prompt and effective reporting is critical to safeguarding. Follow these steps if you have a concern:

1. **Immediate Danger:** If an adult is at risk of immediate danger, **call 999 straight away.**
2. **Report to DSO:** As soon as possible, report the concern to the club's **Designated Safeguarding Officer**. Provide as much detail as you can, including the date, time, individuals involved, and a factual account of what you saw or were told.
3. **No Action on Your Own: Do not** investigate the concern yourself. This can compromise any future official investigation. Your role is to report, not to prove.
4. **Confidentiality:** All information will be treated as confidential and shared only on a "need-to-know" basis with those who can manage and resolve the situation, including statutory agencies if required.

6. Review

This policy will be formally reviewed by Taunton Pickleball on an annual basis. Feedback from members will be considered to ensure the policy remains effective and up to date with current legislation and best practices.