



## Safeguarding Policy Statement

Ayrshire Tigers Powerchair Football Club is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare and rights of all of its players in its care which include children and protected adults. The club recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and protect all players from harm, abuse and exploitation. All the club's players have some form of physical disability i.e. spina bifida, muscular dystrophy with some players also having some form of learning disability.

The club actively promotes the creation of a positive, safe and supportive environment. The protection and wellbeing of our players must be a priority for everyone working or volunteering at the club including spectators.

Safeguarding is a term that is typically used in the UK to denote measures to protect the well-being and human rights of children (under 18 years old) and protected adults from abuse, harm and neglect.

### **We recognise that:**

- The welfare of the child (up to the age of 18 years) and protected adult is paramount;
- All players, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- Working in partnership with players and their families is essential in promoting and embedding this policy.

### **The purpose of the Club's Safeguarding Policy and procedures is to:**

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and protected adults;
- provide staff and volunteers with appropriate training to recognise, identify and respond to safeguarding concerns relating to children and protected adults;
- ensure that appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents or concerns and that support is provided to those who raise or disclose the concern and it is dealt with confidentially;
- prevent the employment or engagement of unsuitable individuals by adopting rigorous recruitment and vetting procedures.

### **CHILDREN AT RISK**

We recognise the child's rights to protection as provided in Article 19 of the UNCRC: all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. 'Child protection' means protecting a child from child abuse or neglect, as stated within the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014.

For the purposes of this policy a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years. This policy applies to all children regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion, socio-economic status or family circumstance.

### **PROTECTED ADULTS AT RISK**

The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 defines a person aged 16 years or over may be considered to be a protected adult if they receives one, or all of the following:



- Accommodation and nursing or personal care in a care home
- Personal care, nursing, or support to live independently in their own home
- Health or social care services
- Services provided by an establishment catering for a person with a learning disability
- If person is attending a discrete sports session/club/event

And in consequence of one, or a combination of the following:

- A substantial learning or physical disability
- A reduction in physical or mental capacity due to advanced age, illness or injury

A person is also considered to be protected if they are either:

- Dependent on others in performing or assisting himself / herself in the performance of basic physical functions, or Their ability to communicate with those providing services, or to communicate with others is severely impaired
- Are unable to their own well-being, property, rights or other interests.

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 defines 'adults at risk are adults who:

- are unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests,
- safeguard are at risk of harm, and
- because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

An adult is at risk of harm if:

- another person's conduct is causing (or is likely to cause) the adult to be harmed, or
- the adult is engaging (or is likely to engage) in conduct which causes (or is likely to cause) s

It is important to point out that here are also some important differences between safeguarding children and protected adults. The differences include:

- Some forms of abuse, signs and indicators;
- The importance of choice and decision making by the adult
- The rights of adults to make unwise choices
- The importance of involving the adult in safeguarding plans and actions;
- Laws, guidance and football regulations.

**Ayrshire Tigers Powerchair Football Club will:**

- Ensure the welfare of children and protected adults is the primary concern.
- Respect and promote the rights of children and protected adults for whom they are responsible.
- Accept the moral and legal responsibility to provide a duty of care for children and protected adults for whom they are responsible, and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard their well-being and protect them from all forms of abuse.
- Promote the health and welfare of children and protected adults by providing opportunities to participate in powerchair football safely.



- Safely recruit, train, support and supervise its staff/volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and protected adults for whom they are responsible from abuse and to minimise risk to themselves.
- Require employees, to adopt and abide by this policy and sign up to the Code of Conduct for Safeguarding Children's and Protected Adult's Wellbeing.
- Respond to any allegations of abuse in line with these procedures as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy, these procedures and associated safeguards and include children's and protected adult's views in this process.
- Review and evaluate this policy and supporting procedures on a regular basis.
- Ensure all children and protected adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- Ensure all incidents of alleged poor practice and abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Confidentiality is upheld and personal data is processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Club has appointed a dedicated Safeguarding Officer who is responsible for ensuring and advising on the implementation of Safeguarding policies across the Club. The Safeguarding Officer will arrange staff training for employees/volunteers engaged in 'regulated work' with children and protected adults.

These policies, procedures and safeguards comply with sportscotland minimum operating requirements for Safeguarding Children in Scottish sport.

## Review

This policy and associated procedures will be regularly reviewed and will include children's and protected adult's participation and feedback on the content and actual experience of implementation as part of the review:

- In accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection and safeguarding of children or protected adults or following any changes within Ayrshire Tigers Powerchair Football Club.
- Following any issue or concern raised about the protection and safeguarding of children or protected adults within Ayrshire Tigers Powerchair Football Club. In all other circumstances, at least every three years.

**Ayrshire Tigers Powerchair Football Club SCIO abides by both the Scottish Para-Football Child and Protected Adult Wellbeing and Protection Policies and the SFA's Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy.**

Adam McGovern  
*Safeguarding Officer*

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