

Worcester City Chess Club Safeguarding Policy

Adopted at the AGM held on 5 June 2025

Worcester City Chess Club is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all players to enjoy chess and be respected by others.

This Safeguarding policy sets out the minimum requirements to ensure all players are able to take part in our club activities.

Overview:

Worcester City Chess Club (hereinafter the 'Club') welcomes to its sessions and other activities all players who are interested in chess, and will strive to ensure that everyone is treated with care and respect.

The Club recognises that the welfare and interests of children and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances. It also aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or identity, or socioeconomic background, all members and visitors:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of chess in a safe and sociable environment
- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- value, listen to and respect children, young people and vulnerable adults

The Club has adopted a Safeguarding policy as set out in this document. This policy will apply to all members of, and visitors to, the Club when undertaking Club activities. A child (otherwise a junior player) in this context is deemed to be anyone less than eighteen years of age. A copy of the policy will also be posted at Worcester City Chess Club website (1) and available at the club's home venue, and it is a condition of membership that all members of the Club abide by and promote this policy.

Roles and Responsibilities:

All club members are responsible for ensuring that our high standards are upheld and that Safeguarding is at the forefront of our considerations.

Safeguarding Officer - The Club has a Safeguarding Officer (2). Any Safeguarding, child welfare concerns or allegations, and any comments or questions regarding the policy or advice should be directed to that officer.

The current holder of this post is Ray Collett. Any allegations or concerns will be listened to and investigated. If deemed necessary, they will be pursued, by the Club's Safeguarding Officer in accordance with the English Chess Federation's Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines, which are available for viewing on the Federation's website at www.englishchess.org.uk

Junior Players

The Club welcomes junior players to its sessions and events. It also allows juniors of an appropriate level to participate in inter-club matches and league matches.

The Club and its officials are not able to act 'in loco parentis' at any club session, event or match.

Parents/carers/guardians are ultimately responsible for the junior player and need to consider the wellbeing, safety and good behaviour of junior players when deciding on any arrangements.

This policy sets out to safeguard the welfare of children attending the Club by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm or abuse.

Parental Supervision:

Parents/carers/guardians remain responsible for their child when they are attending chess club. Ideally, they should accompany their child to sessions, remain on the club premises and escort their child home. Any alternative arrangements made with other responsible adults should be put in writing and must comply with the guidelines below.

Children under the age of 14 must always be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Older secondary school /teenage players between 14 and 18 must have written permission from a parent or other responsible adult to be allowed to attend the club alone and to travel home alone. Such written permission should be emailed or clearly communicated to the Safeguarding officer in advance of the sessions.

The Club also, where appropriate, welcomes the participation of children in inter-club matches away from the club venue. Parents/other responsible adults remain responsible for their child and any arrangements made. Ideally, they should accompany their child to away venues and it is advisable that any alternative arrangements concerning transportation or supervising juniors at away venues is put in writing.

Clear arrangements and responsibilities should also apply for any visiting juniors and responsibility for this should be made clear to the visiting team captain.

Supervision and the Rule of Three:

The club adheres to the "rule of three" whenever possible requiring at least two adults or two juniors in a group at all times. If a one-on-one situation is unavoidable, the adult and youth shall stay in an open, public area where they can be seen by others at all times.

Photography & recording of images:

Recording a child's achievements can be really important. The Club, however, recognises the opportunity for misuse of published material and that there can be circumstances where publicity can be detrimental to a child or their family.

Parents and guardians should be aware that photography for publicity purposes may take place, particularly at regional or national events, which may be outside of the Club's Control. The Club's policy is to seek parental consent before photography takes place and for publication.

Parents and guardians who have any objection to photography (which does not need any explanation) can register it with the Club Secretary or the Safeguarding team.

Adult Players:

All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment. The Club will seek to ensure that our chess is inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment.

Recordkeeping:

Adequate records should be maintained relating to all safeguarding matters, both to demonstrate that appropriate policies are adopted and followed and that any complaints are addressed and resolved expeditiously and with due diligence.

Summary:

The Club has adopted the English Chess Federation's Safeguarding Policy and will follow relevant sections of the policy including procedures for recognising issues, handling allegations, acting on concerns and maintaining proper safeguarding records.

The current version of the policy can be found on the ECF website (3).

The Club shall abide by any further rules, regulations or guidelines which may be set out from time to time by the Club Committee, the Venue, the Local League Committees, and / or the ECF where these are deemed necessary to support the policy objectives.

The club policy shall be reviewed and updated as necessary from time to time and at least annually at the AGM of Worcester City Chess Club in line with experience and recommended practice in the area of Safeguarding and child protection.

Signature : Ray Collett (Hon secretary)

Date : 5 June 2025

(1) www.raycollett.net/city

(2) Paul Serafini

(3) <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ECF-Safeguarding-Policy.pdf>