

Kendal Pickleball Club Safeguarding Adults

Policy and Procedure – May 2026

This policy has been written with reference to the Pickleball England Policy and Procedure document.

At Kendal Pickleball Club (KPC) we are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for everyone to play and enjoy the sport and to safeguard the welfare of all adults involved in pickleball, particularly those deemed to be 'at risk'.

This policy applies to everyone over the age of 18 involved in pickleball whether it be in a playing, coaching, volunteering, or spectating capacity. It links closely to our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy (EDI) with the principles that 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 pickleball in an enjoyable and safe environment.

We will seek to ensure that pickleball is inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability, or impairment. The rights, dignity and worth of all adults will always be respected. We recognise that ability and disability can change over time, such that some adults may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, particularly those adults with care and support needs.

All KPC members have shared responsibility to ensure that safety and wellbeing of all adults is a priority and will act appropriately and report concerns whether they arise within pickleball or in the wider community. All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly. We recognise the role and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding adults and are committed to complying with the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Adults Boards. Our first point of contact is through the Westmorland and Furness Council Adult Social Care team

Telephone: [0300 373 3301](tel:03003733301)

Out of Hours telephone: [01539 768700](tel:01539768700)

In the case of emergency we would contact the police on 999.

The following principles underpin the safeguarding of adults:

- Empowerment – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
- Prevention – it is better to act before harm occurs.
- Proportionality – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- Protection – support and representation for those in greatest need.
- Partnership – local solutions through services working with their pickleball community.
- Accountability – accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

Guidance and Legislation The practices and procedures within this policy are based on the principles contained within the UK legislation and Government guidance and take the following into consideration:

- The Care Act 2014
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 1994 and 1998

The Care Act 2014 defined adult safeguarding as follows: “Adult safeguarding’ is working with adults with care and support needs to keep them safe from abuse or neglect.”

Adult at Risk is a person aged 18 or over who needs care and support regardless of whether they are receiving them, and because of those needs may be unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect.

Adult safeguarding is protecting a person’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Capacity refers to the ability to make a decision at a particular time, for example when under considerable stress.

Examples of types of abusive and neglectful behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern are:

- Physical - Includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions. For example, this could be a coach intentionally striking a player.
- Sexual - Including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting to.
- Psychological/Emotional/Mental - This includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or support networks. This could be a player threatening another player with physical harm and persistently blaming them for poor performance.
- Financial and material - Including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult’s financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- Neglect and act of omission - Including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition, and heating.
- Discriminatory - Discrimination is abuse which centres on a difference or perceived difference particularly with respect to race, gender or disability or any of the protected characteristics of the

Equality Act. This could be the harassing of a club member because they are or are perceived to be transgender.

- Organisational - Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home for example, or in relation to care provided in one's home. This may range from one-off incidents to ongoing ill treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes, and practices within an organisation. In pickleball, this could be training without a necessary break.
- Modern Day Slavery - Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they can to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude, and inhumane treatment.
- Domestic Violence - Including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence. Sport may notice a power imbalance between a participant and a family member. For example, a participant with Downs syndrome may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their brother comes to collect them from sessions, in contrast to their parent/carer whom they greet with a smile.
- Self Neglect - This covers a wide range of behaviour, such as neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. This could be a pickleball player whose appearance becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable kit, or shows a deterioration in hygiene standards.

Not included in the Care Act 2014 but also relevant could be:

- Cyber bullying
- Forced marriage
- Hate Crime
- Radicalisation and Extremism Signs and Indicators of Abuse

Abuse can take place in any context and by all manner of perpetrators. Abuse may be inflicted by anyone in a club who a player comes into contact with. Club members, workers, volunteers, or coaches may suspect that a player is being abused or neglected outside of the club setting. There are many signs and indicators that may suggest someone is being abused or neglected, these include, but are not limited to:

- Unexplained bruises or injuries – or lack of medical attention when an injury is present.
- A person has belongings or money going missing.
- A person is not attending or no longer enjoying their sessions.
- Someone losing or gaining weight/an unkempt appearance.
- A change in the behaviour or confidence of a person.
- They may self-harm.
- They may have a fear of a particular group or individual.
- They may tell you/another person that they are being abused i.e. a disclosure.

If you have a concern you may:

- become aware that abuse or poor practice is taking place
- suspect abuse or poor practice may be occurring, or
- be told about something that may be abuse or poor practice. You must report this to the Safeguarding Lead.

Procedure for Reporting a concern:

Kendal Pickleball Club members have a shared responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all adults in the club and will act accordingly, reporting concerns, taking all allegations seriously ensuring they are responded to quickly in accordance to Kendal Pickleball Club Safeguarding policy and procedures.

1. Speak to the **Club Safeguarding Lead, Carol Catnach**, to raise the concern in the first instance. Mobile: 076852913181 Email: c.catnach@sky.com or to **Club Safeguarding Deputy, Bernie Tanham**, Mobile: 07768865964 Email: btanhamkpc@gmail.com
2. You might be asked to record this on the 'Reporting Safeguarding Concerns' form – see below.

The Club Safeguarding Lead, in consultation with the Club Safeguarding deputy, will take appropriate action which might be reporting this to the Westmorland and Furness Adult Social Care Team or the police i.e. concerns about serious abuse. Less serious incidents will be addressed within the club i.e. intimidating play, unsporting behaviour. It might also be reported to Pickleball England Safeguarding Lead/Team who will then ensure that the allegation/concern/disclosure is effectively being managed and will offer support and guidance to the CSO and the individual at risk.

safeguarding@pickleballengland.org

If club members would like to discuss whether to make a referral in advance of submitting it, they can speak to:

Stuart Trayler on 07736 150069.

First Point of Contact for Westmorland and Furness Council is:

Adult Social Care team

Telephone: [0300 373 3301](tel:03003733301)

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This form should be used to register a safeguarding concern relating to pickleball activity. This could involve children or adults at risk (or both).

- Describe the circumstances in which the disclosure arose.
- Take care to distinguish between fact, observation, allegation, and opinion. It is important that the information you share is accurate.
- Be mindful of the need to always maintain confidentiality. The information must only be shared with the Safeguarding Lead and any others strictly on a need-to-know basis.
- Make a note below of what the person has said using his or her own words as soon as is practicable.

SAFEGUARDING CONCERN REPORT FORM

Your details:

Name	
Phone	
Email	
Role (player/ coach etc	

Details of your concern:

Location	
Date and time of incident	
Who this report about is about	(provide as much detail as possible eg contact details of person concerned)

Details of your concerns	(describe what happened in as much detail as possible in a clear and chronological order giving details of what happened, how it happened, any injuries sustained, behaviour witnessed and whether the information provided is being recorded as fact, opinion, or hearsay).
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Are there any witnesses who can give any information regarding your concerns?
Please provide details of this individual or individuals:

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Are you aware of any other evidence which supports your concerns?

Has the club taken any action to manage this issue?

Return this form to the Club Safeguarding Lead

Carol Catnach - Club Safeguarding Lead

Or

Bernie Tanham - Club Safeguarding Deputy