Lichfield Chess Club: Safeguarding Policy

(Updated: 8th November 2026)

Lichfield Chess Club is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment in which all players can enjoy chess and be respected by others.

This Safeguarding Policy sets out the minimum requirements to ensure that all players can take part in our club activities.

Overview

Lichfield Chess Club ("the Club") welcomes to its sessions and other activities all players who are interested in chess. The Club will strive to ensure that everyone is treated with care and respect. Everyone is responsible for ensuring that our high standards are upheld and that safeguarding is at the forefront of our considerations.

Lichfield Chess Club recognises that the welfare and interests of children, young people and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances. It 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 the Safeguarding Policy set out below. This policy applies to all members of, and visitors to, the Club when undertaking Club activities. A child in this context is anyone under eighteen years of age.

A copy of this policy will be posted on the Club's website, with printed copies available on request. It is a condition of membership that all members of the Club have read, abide by and promote this policy.

Safeguarding Officer

The Club will appoint a Safeguarding Officer, who holds, as a minimum, a basic DBS clearance. Any safeguarding or child welfare concerns or allegations, and any comments, questions or requests for advice regarding this policy, should be directed to them.

The current post holder is:

Richard Anderson - email: richardjeanderson@gmail.com. Note: Richard has an enhanced DBS clearance.

Any allegations or concerns will be listened to and investigated. Where 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 on the Federation's website at www.englishchess.org.uk.

Children

The Club welcomes children to its sessions and events. It also allows children of an appropriate level to take part in inter-club 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 and guardians are ultimately responsible for the child and need to consider the child's wellbeing, safety and good behaviour 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.

Parents, carers and guardians remain responsible for their child when they are attending any Club activity. They should accompany their child to sessions, remain on the premises within sight of the child, and escort their child home. Any alternative arrangements made with other responsible adults should be put in writing and agreed with the Safeguarding Officer in advance.

Children aged 16 or 17 should have written permission from a parent or other responsible adult to attend the Club alone and to travel home alone. This permission should be emailed, or otherwise clearly communicated in writing, to the Safeguarding Officers in advance of the sessions.

Where appropriate, the Club also welcomes the participation of children in inter-club matches away from the Club's regular venues. Parents, carers and guardians remain responsible for their child and for any arrangements made. Ideally, they should accompany their child to away venues, and any alternative arrangements concerning transport or the supervision of children at away venues must be put in writing to the Safeguarding Officer in advance.

Clear arrangements and responsibilities should also apply to any visiting children, and responsibility for this will lie with the visiting team's members. A copy of this policy will be provided to all visiting teams in advance of the fixture.

Adult Players

All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital status 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 will make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment that is notified to us.

Adequate records will be kept of all safeguarding matters, both to demonstrate that appropriate policies have been adopted and followed, and to show that any complaints have been addressed and resolved promptly and with due diligence.

Summary

The Club shall abide by any rules and regulations set out by the English Chess Federation and/or the local league committees, and by any rules and regulations that the Club committee and Chair deem necessary for the proper application of, and adherence to, this policy, including the relevant rules and policies of the venue.

This policy will be reviewed and updated from time to time in line with experience and recommended practice in safeguarding and child protection.

Date: 08/11/26

Signed: Brian Homewood

Role: Chairman, Lichfield Chess Club