

Warwickshire Contract Bridge Association

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy Statement



Scope – This policy covers Warwickshire Contract Bridge Association and any affiliated club offering services in support of, or in partnership with, Warwickshire Contract Bridge Association.

Warwickshire Contract Bridge Association acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people, including children, and is committed to ensuring its safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and the English Bridge Union's [Safeguarding Policy and Good Practice Guide](#).

This policy recognises that the welfare and interests of young people are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all young people have a positive and enjoyable experience of Minibridge and/or Bridge in a safe environment, and are protected from abuse whilst participating in Minibridge and/or Bridge, or outside of the activity.

Warwickshire Contract Bridge Association acknowledges that some young people, including disabled children and young persons or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Warwickshire Contract Bridge Association will

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
- ensure that all personal and confidential information received which relates to a young person will be kept and used securely
- manage all aspects of the individual young person's Minibridge/Bridge development, particularly when the parent/carer is not a bridge player. It is considered bad practice to approach a young person directly to offer support, or to offer to partner them in a game of Bridge. All approaches, including requests for personal details, must be made through the Youth Officer, or nominated representative (which can be a bridge playing parent/carer)
- adopt the principles of the English Bridge Union's [Safeguarding Policy and Good Practice Guide](#), as its own where references to EBU will refer to WCBA
- do its utmost best to provide a safe environment to enjoy the game when a parent/carer is not present to do so. However, it does not accept any responsibility for private arrangements made by a parent/carer.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Warwickshire Contract Bridge Association. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in further action in accordance with the English Bridge Union's [Safeguarding Policy and Good Practice Guide](#).

WCBA Child Protection (Safeguarding) Officers (CPO@WarwickshireBridge.co.uk):

Myra Scott, Youth Officer, 07939 353098, Youth@WarwickshireBridge.co.uk

Darren Evetts, Chairman, 07977 481399, Chairman@WarwickshireBridge.co.uk

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the English Bridge Union
- as a result of any other significant change or event.