

## 3 year anniversary for Safeguarding Children Impact posters

Squash Wales are proud to announce that the Safeguarding Impact posters designed by juniors from Porthcawl Squash Club and wording provided by boys and girls from the junior elite will for the 3rd year spearhead Squash Wales Impact and Awareness programme throughout Wales.



## STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS

The department of culture, media and sport have now published "Helping keep your child safe in sport" a child protection leaflet for parents to enable them to ask the right questions about important child protection measures that sports providers should have in place, wherever and whatever their child participates in.

For more visit: [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk) reference library publication



## What does Good Practice Mean?

Personnel in Squash Wales should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour at all times in order to protect themselves from false allegations. Enforcing these guidelines will make it very difficult for those with criminal intentions to operate within squash. The following points are common sense examples of how to create a positive squash culture and climate (eg coach/adult protection, as well as child protection). Good practice means always putting the welfare of the young person first – by treating them equally and with respect and dignity. Children and young people should be empowered to share in the decision-making process.

Good Practice means:

- ALWAYS WORKING IN AN OPEN ENVIRONMENT (EG AVOIDING PRIVATE OR UNOBSERVED SITUATIONS AND ENCOURAGING AN OPEN ENVIRONMENT, EG NO SECRETS).
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with performers (eg it is not appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child or to share a room with them).
- Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support is required, this is administered openly and according to guidelines provided by Squash Wales.
- Young people should always be consulted and their agreement gained, prior to any physical assistance being given. Some parents are becoming increasingly sensitive about manual support and their views should always be considered.
- Involving parents wherever possible (eg for the responsibility of their children in the changing rooms). When groups are supervised in the changing rooms, always ensure parents, teachers, coaches, officials, work in pairs.
- Encouraging parents to ask questions and giving information to parents and young people.
- Ensuring that at Tournaments or Residential Events, adults do not enter children's rooms alone, or invite children into their room.
- Ensuring that when mixed teams are taken away, they should always be accompanied by a male and female member of staff (nb: same gender abuse can occur).
- Securing parental consent in writing, to act in loco parentis, when the need arises to give permission for the administration of emergency first aid/or other medical treatment.
- Requesting written parental consent when club officials are required to transport young people in their cars, and when using photography
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.

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Tel: 01633 681646 • Fax: 01633 680998 • Website: [www.squashwales.co.uk](http://www.squashwales.co.uk) • E-mail: [squashwales@squashwales.co.uk](mailto:squashwales@squashwales.co.uk)

# Equity & Safeguarding

Welcome to the 3rd Issue of Squash Wales Equity & Safeguarding Children Newsletter.

*This edition looks at the following:*

- Squash Wales promise to Safeguard and Protect Children
- Guidelines on the use of photography
- A UK Framework to support Safety
- Squash Wales Equality Action Plan
  - Club Development
  - Coach Education
  - Competition
  - Squad Coaching
  - Selection Procedures
- Guidance for persons hosting or taking Individual/Teams to away events
- What does Good Practice mean?
- 3 year anniversary for Safeguarding Children Impact posters
- Stop Press..... Stop Press.....

**Squash Wales is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for children and young people.**

*We do this by:*

- Recognising that all children have the right to freedom from abuse.
- Ensuring that all volunteers and staff are carefully selected and accept responsibility for helping to prevent the abuse of children in their care.
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and providing parents and children with the opportunity to voice any concerns they may have.
- Appointing a Club Child Welfare Officer who will take specific responsibility for child protection and act as a main point of contact for parents, children and outside agencies.
- Ensuring access to confidential information is restricted to the Club Child Welfare Officer or the appropriate external authorities.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of our Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy on an annual basis.



# Equality Action Plan

Equality is central to the Squash Wales 4 year Strategic Plan objectives and strategic aims. The Plan is centred around the Squash Wales National Coaching Scheme and all that operates under its umbrella. The National Coaching Scheme has five stages within it and key aspects within these stages are, Club Development (the Club Charter), Coach Education and Development (UKCC) and Competition. Volunteers are also at the centre of all stages as they form the life blood of the sport.

## Club Development

Squash Wales strategic plan includes increasing the number of Clubs who have been awarded Squash Wales Charter status. Equality forms the bedrock of Charter Qualification. All Charter Clubs must operate the Squash Wales Equality Guidelines. Club Committee Members, Club Coaches, Referees, Child Safeguarding Welfare Officers and Volunteers must be recruited through Equality Policies and then must adopt Equality Practices. Squash Wales will promote and endorse only the Charter Clubs who fulfil Equity obligations and in doing so support the volunteer network.

## Coach Education and Development (UKCC)

Squash Wales operates an advanced, complete coach education programme and has been recognised as pioneering the UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) system which

itself adheres to Equality policies and practices. The Squash Wales Licence Scheme ensures that coaches attain certain standards in order to be employed as a licenced squash wales coach. From 2009 all such coaches must attend Equality Education Training Courses.

## Competition

The Squash Wales competitive calendar includes grassroots development, individual and team championships, optional and compulsory tournaments, Welsh junior open and closed events, plus Welsh senior open and closed tournaments. These events are only held in chartered clubs therefore ensuring that the equality guidelines operate during a tournament.

## Squash Wales Squads

Area Performance Centres, Regional Excellence Squads and National Squads are held in the Welsh Institute of Sport or chartered Clubs thus ensuring that Equality Guidelines are followed.

## Selection Procedure

Member of Squash Wales Squads are selected in adherence to Squash Wales Equity Policies thus ensuring that players are chosen without fear nor favour.

# Guidance for persons hosting or taking individuals/teams to away events

The Standards are set by Squash Wales Regional Excellence and National Squad Coaches who Travel with Inter-County and Representational Teams

All Coaches are provided with the following Pack as guidance for persons hosting events and for those persons taking teams/individuals to Away events.

- The pack includes the following:
- Squash Wales Checklist for Hosting/Away Events (including guidelines);
  - Squash Wales Procedure for Missing Participants;
  - Squash Wales Code of Ethics and Conduct for Coaches and Referees;
  - Squash Wales Code of Conduct and Commitment Statement for Squad Players and Managers;

- Squash Wales Code of Conduct for Participants (to be completed by persons representing their County/Country);
- Squash Wales Parental Consent Form (for participants attending an Away event);
- Accident Report Form;
- Incident Record Form (to record episodes of misconduct).

It is necessary that all responsible persons hosting events OR taking participants to Away events adhere to the guidance contained in this pack .

More information can be found on: [www.squashwales.co.uk](http://www.squashwales.co.uk)

# Squash Wales Promise – to safeguard and protect children



Squash Wales is committed to safeguarding and protecting children and requires Board members, Officers, Coaches, Referees, Child Welfare officers and volunteers who work in the Squash Wales structure to attend a Sports Coach UK (SCUK) Safeguarding and Protecting Children 3 hour workshop.

Since its inception in September 2003, 161 personnel have attended 12 courses held in venues in North Wales, West Wales and South Wales.

In 2006 Squash Wales introduced its Club Charter Scheme whereby squash clubs apply to be recognised as attaining certain standards of facilities and coaching personnel and are rewarded by achieving a Bronze, Silver and Gold charter award.

Chartered Clubs must have their coaches registered with Squash Wales, CRB checked and hold a Safeguarding and protecting children certificate.

Every Club must have a Child Welfare Officer whose contact details are displayed on its notice board.

Squash Wales performs 8 club mail drops per annum, and has delivered to all clubs its Safeguarding Impact Posters.

If your club has not received a poster please e mail – [mike@squashwales.co.uk](mailto:mike@squashwales.co.uk)

Squash Wales will continue to promote Safeguarding and Protecting Children.

*Mike Workman*  
Director of Coaching and Development, Squash Wales

# A UK Framework to support safety

The UK Coaching Framework aims to create “a cohesive, ethical, inclusive and valued Coaching System where skilled coaches support children, players and athletes at all stages of their development in sport”. It also makes specific reference to the necessity for all coaches and organisations involved in coaching to have a particular responsibility for safeguarding children.

The Framework emphasises a participant – centred approach to coaching, and children’s right” to be safe, nurtured, healthy, active and happy in sport”.

## Squash Wales Coaching Register Information

Only members of the Coaching Register are licensed to carry out coaching activities on behalf of Squash Wales in accordance with the level of qualification obtained. The scheme is managed by Squash Wales.

Membership of the Coaching Register has a maximum duration of 12 months. The renewal date each year is 1st September. Members are required to complete a personal disclosure form as part of the Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy and submit to a CRB check every 3 years. More Information on [www.squashwales.co.uk](http://www.squashwales.co.uk)

# Guidelines on the use of Photography



There is evidence that some people have used sporting events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs, or film footage of young and disabled sports people, in vulnerable positions. It is advisable that all staff be vigilant, with any concerns to be reported to an official or responsible person, at an event. It is important to ensure that any photographers commissioned at an event are clear about the expectations placed on them in relation to safeguarding children and must wear Identification at all times.

Parents and participants must be informed that a photographer will be present at an event, and must consent in writing to both the taking and the publication of films or photographs. Unsupervised access to participants or one to one photo sessions at events must not be permitted.

There is no intention to prevent coaches and tutors from using video equipment as a legitimate coaching aid, however, participants and their parents should be aware that this is part of the coaching programme and care should be taken in storing such films. Guidance must be taken by an Event Co-ordinator regarding the use of mobile phones and parents using video cameras