



## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

### **Introduction**

British Lacrosse believes that all those involved in the sport of lacrosse have the right to be safe and to enjoy their involvement. We accept a responsibility to promote the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and to protect them from harm in partnership with the “Lacrosse Community”.

British Lacrosse considers the “Lacrosse Community” to include all individuals, clubs, associations, and other organisations involved in any capacity in the game of lacrosse, whether or not they are members of British Lacrosse. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes all players and anyone working within lacrosse (in a paid or voluntary capacity, and whether as an employee or on a self-employed or other work basis) including all coaches, umpires, referees, and other officials.

Young people are defined as children that have not yet turned 18 years old. Vulnerable adults are people over the age of 18 who are unable to protect themselves from abuse, harm or exploitation, which may be by reason of illness, age, mental illness, disability or other types of physical or mental impairment.

This Safeguarding Policy applies to all involved in British Lacrosse and each member of the Lacrosse Community.

The policy sits alongside all other British Lacrosse policies and regulations including, but not limited to, the British Lacrosse Code of Ethics and Behaviour.

### **Purpose of the Policy**

This Safeguarding Policy has been produced to promote the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and to protect them from harm. This Safeguarding Policy sets out the commitments made by British Lacrosse about safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults and certain general principles and specific guidance that should be followed.

All involved in British Lacrosse should be aware of, and ensure compliance with, other relevant good practice guidance relating to young people and vulnerable adults including:

- recruitment of persons working with young people and vulnerable adults, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks in recruitment and employment;
- anti-bullying;
- use of photographic and recorded images;
- communications;
- supervision;
- use of social media;
- planning of events, competitions and tours.

### **Legal Requirements and Government Guidance**

The practices, procedures, principles and guidance within this Safeguarding Policy and associated reporting procedures are based on the principles contained within the UK and international legislation and government guidance with reference to the Protection of Freedom

Act 2012 and the requirements of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in relation to recruitment of those in regulated activity.

British Lacrosse has a defined reporting procedure and process.

British Lacrosse works closely with the NSPCC/CPSU (Child Protection in Sport Unit) and is committed to maintaining and embedding safeguarding within lacrosse.

### **Policy Objectives / British Lacrosse's Role**

British Lacrosse will publicise and promote within lacrosse its Safeguarding Policy. We will support all involved in the Lacrosse Community adopting and implementing their own policies. This support will include producing policies and procedures and good practice guidance by providing access to training and education opportunities.

British Lacrosse is committed to provide access to appropriate advice and support, ensuring that concerns relating to the safety and welfare of young people in lacrosse are taken seriously and acted upon swiftly and appropriately. See British Lacrosse's Reporting Procedures.

British Lacrosse recognises the roles and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults and the responsibilities and expertise of the relevant agencies in determining whether young people have, or may have, been abused or otherwise harmed or are at risk of harm.

British Lacrosse is committed to complying with the relevant national procedures. Accordingly, British Lacrosse will work cooperatively with the relevant statutory agencies on matters relating to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults and where British Lacrosse receives report of a concern, it will refer the matter to the relevant statutory agency where appropriate.

British Lacrosse is also committed to directly challenging conduct within lacrosse that is, or may be, harmful to young people. It may, therefore, instigate proceedings under its own disciplinary policy where concerns or complaints are raised (by sources internal or external to lacrosse) relating to the safety and welfare of young people and vulnerable adults.

British Lacrosse will act against any person or organisation within its authority whose conduct is found to have harmed a young person or vulnerable adult in lacrosse or whose conduct (within or outside lacrosse) poses or may pose a risk of harm to young people or vulnerable adults in lacrosse.

### **General Principles**

The following principles regarding safeguarding and protecting young people and vulnerable adults will be applied by British Lacrosse and should be applied by everyone in the Lacrosse Community:

- The safety and welfare of young people and vulnerable adults is paramount.
- The views and opinions of young people and vulnerable adults are sought, considered, and integrated into all aspects of lacrosse.
- All young people and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, ability, sex, race, religion or belief, ethnic origin, social status, or sexual orientation have the right to be protected from harm.
- It is recognised that some young people and vulnerable adults have additional vulnerability, which may be due to disability, language, sexual orientation, culture or for the fact that they perform in an elite environment. It is therefore important to raise awareness of additional risks and address needs, as required.

- The rights, dignity and worth of all young people and vulnerable adults should always be respected.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, but it is the responsibility of safeguarding experts to determine whether abuse has taken place. It is everyone's responsibility in the Lacrosse Community to report concerns.
- Statutory agencies have a role in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults and information should be shared with them as appropriate.
- All involved in British Lacrosse work in partnership to support and implement, monitor, and evaluate the progress of this Safeguarding Policy.

British Lacrosse is committed to encouraging and supporting everyone within Lacrosse to recognise and regard as essential the effective and safe recruitment of all individuals working with young people and vulnerable adults in lacrosse.

British Lacrosse is committed to provide education and training opportunities for all involved in relation to safeguarding and protecting children and vulnerable adults.

This Safeguarding Policy and any related guidance relating to the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults in lacrosse need to be applied both in relation to activities for young people and vulnerable adults specifically and where young people and vulnerable adults may be involved within the adults' game, for example, where players under 18 years of age are incorporated into adult lacrosse teams.

### **Lacrosse Community Responsibilities**

Everyone within British Lacrosse and the Lacrosse Community must also comply with the following specific guidance:

- Abide by British Lacrosse's Safeguarding Policy and any associated guidance, which specifies conduct in relation to the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults within lacrosse.
- Where appropriate act to deal with minor issues or concerns at a local level, including challenging poor practice in relation to safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults.
- Seek advice from British Lacrosse Safeguarding Lead when dealing with issues or concerns that are more complex than first perceived.
- Follow British Lacrosse reporting procedures where there are concerns relating to the safety or welfare of young people and vulnerable adults.

Adopted: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022