

# Devon Squash & Racketball Child Welfare Guidelines

As your new County Welfare Officer, I would like to start my new role by stating the obvious.

**Any individual, organisation, club or County Board has a duty of care to ensure the safety and welfare of any child involved in related activities, to safeguard and protect them from reasonably foreseeable forms of harm**

**Safeguarding is about all of us acknowledging that this duty of care exists, and it is about us putting practical measures in place, in our own locations, to minimise the likelihood of foreseeable harm arising.**

**A child is anyone who has not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

**The Devon Squash and Racket Ball Association has a commitment to ensuring that the sport provides a safe, friendly, and enjoyable experience for children.**

**The safeguarding of children is applicable to every participant and each and every club within the county of Devon. It is the responsibility of each club, not just to take on board the spirit of safeguarding children, but to actively develop and promote club policies to support the principle.**

**Each club should consider nominating a committee member to be the point of contact with the County Welfare Officer to enable their club to have an easy and direct access to information to help the club develop and promote child welfare policies and also more importantly, to ensure quick and confidential access to advice on how to respond to any suspicions or information that young people within the sport, whether members of their club or not, are at risk.**

However; in any circumstance where immediate action is required:

**Contact the Police/Ambulance/Children's Social Care/LADO immediately if any child is in danger or has been hurt at the club and then report the matter to the County Welfare Officer**

Through the medium of the DSRA web site I hope to be able to keep you all updated in respect of the changes in legislation being proposed by the Coalition Government in respect of CRB checks.

Currently CRB checks are required for all club coaches who coach any person under 18 years old. It is recommended that any person that runs junior club sessions is also subject to a CRB check

I am still awaiting authority to become a CRB verifier. When that arrives I will be able to sign off your CRB renewals or applications.

The current situation is the Government has made proposals to simplify CRB procedures which will, among a range of measures, mean that one CRB fits all. This is still a proposal and as yet has not been implemented. I will keep you all updated on this issue.

If you have any questions regarding CRB or child protection I can be contacted on 07971 827 462, or land line 01752 337044, or by e mail using [hefford@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hefford@blueyonder.co.uk).

Many regards to you all,

Bob Hefford