



CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER - ABINGDON SQUASH CLUB

Safeguarding and protecting children is most effective when it happens at grassroots. The ASC Child Protection Officer provides a vital link between the strategies and guidance at national level and the action and delivery at local level. The club treats safeguarding children as a vital part of the delivery of a safe, enjoyable and healthy sport where parents and players consider child safety of paramount importance. The CPO will help to co-ordinate and advise in this area of their club's activities, with the support and backing of the Committee and Coaches. The Club CPO can also help to make sure that problems are dealt with quickly and effectively.

Core tasks of a CPO

- To ensure the club has a child protection policy and plan.
- To promote the child protection policy and to assist in putting the policy and plan into action.
- To be first point of contact for any child protection concerns. To record any child protection cases in an effective and reliable way. To contact local statutory services if necessary when a concern is identified (e.g. social services, police, local safeguarding board) while ensuring confidentiality is maintained.
- To communicate with the County and national Squash bodies re child protection matters.
- To ensure that recruitment is safe, and that appropriate checks, such as DBS checks, are carried out where relevant. To ensure all coaches are appropriately registered and trained – liaising with Head Coach
- Contact details of the CPO should be clearly displayed at the club.

Who is suitable to be a CPO?

There are no formal requirements or qualifications; but it should be a volunteer with relevant background (e.g. social worker, health visitor, teacher or parent) who should not be a coach. The CPO should attend an online safeguarding workshop offered by England Squash or similar body. The CPO should attend Club Committee meetings to explore key matters and work with the chairman or delegated officer as the need arises.

Skills and qualities of a CPO

- Must be child-focussed, and able to think about things from the perspective of a junior.
- Must communicate well with both adults and children.
- Must have administration and recording skills.
- Should be able to promote and advocate for good practice and safeguarding within the club.