



JUNIOR TOUCH  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Junior Touch Championships PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

In our World, everyone has the right to be safe

# Foreword

This document is the Protecting Young People Policy for the Junior Touch Championships. It shall be followed by all members of the organisation, its event participants, its event participating National Touch Associations and spectators. It shall be promoted by those in positions of leadership.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that actions of any adult in the context of their work associated with the Junior Touch Championships is carried out in a transparent manner, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all young people.

For the avoidance of doubt, the 'organisation' extends to include all participants, coaches, referees, people in positions of management for the whole duration of the event. This policy remains in force until all participants are excused from the tournament. This policy does not replace the commitments and responsibilities that National Touch Associations have under their own Protection Policy during selections and development sessions, but it does provide sound guidance on the Trust's expectations in all situations when dealing with young people in the sport of Touch.

In all JTC documents, the term 'manager' and 'coach' (and their derivatives) refers to both player and referee coaches and managers. The term staff may refer to a coach, manager, volunteer or referee. The terms 'child' and 'young person' are equal and interchangeable.

The European Union '[Rights of the Child](#)' governs this policy and its application.

All participating NTAs should strive to produce and publish their own Child Protection Policy. However the JTC Trust acknowledges that due to a variety of complications not limited to lack of volunteers, small scale Touch community, or lack of resources; a NTA specific Child Protection Policy is not always viable. In this case, NTAs are invited to utilise these policies and best practice.

These policies are not intended to overwrite any country specific laws and regulations.

## Confidentiality

The JTC Trust shall ensure that any records made in relation to a referral are kept confidentially and in a secure place.

Information in relation to child protection concerns should only be shared with those absolutely necessary to the case. However, the sharing of information is vital to child protection and, therefore, the issue of confidentiality is secondary to a child's need for protection.

The factors that need to be considered when determining whether to disclose information include: the reason for sharing the information; the level of detail that needs to be disclosed; with whom the information will be shared; and whether disclosing the information is a proportionate response to the need to protect a child from harm.

## Appendices

This document must be read in conjunction with:

1. JTC Protecting Young People Guidance
2. JTC Protecting Young People Procedures
3. JTC Protecting Young People Recognising Abuse
4. JTC Protecting Young People Poor Practice

# Policy

## Introduction

Participation in the Junior Touch Championships (JTC) can provide valuable life experiences and has the potential to offer significant learning opportunities for young people that can help develop valuable life skills as well as enhancing self-esteem and confidence.

Although the majority of young people benefit from participation in sport, some young people have experienced abuse and/or poor practice linked to their participation. In addition, some young people who are participating in the JTC may be experiencing abuse unrelated to the sport, either at home or within the wider community.

Coaches, volunteers and officials are in the privileged position of having an opportunity to build strong working relationships with young people in their care and are therefore ideally placed to recognise signs that a child may be being abused. This can be achieved by being alert to and aware of the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children and being aware of and responding to any indicators that a child may be experiencing abuse.

The JTC Trust together with the European Federation of Touch (EFT) recognise the importance of ensuring there are procedures in place that outline the appropriate steps to take in the event of a concern. In addition, it is essential to ensure there are comprehensive policies and practical guidance that promote the welfare of children and minimise any identifiable risks within the sport of Touch.

The JTC Trust and EFT (hereafter implied collectively as JTC Trust) aspires for the sport of Touch to be provided in an environment where individuals feel able to raise concerns and where poor practice and inappropriate behaviour can be openly challenged. This can be facilitated by championing the promotion of young people's welfare and providing

access to advice and training to help support staff, members and volunteers to understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

The development of the JTC Trust policy and procedures is important to support both the JTC and the sport of Touch in Europe and will ensure that NTAs fulfil their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people in their care and ensure a consistent and best practice approach across the sport.

The JTC travels throughout Europe with the intention of offering local access to the sport of Touch as well as providing cultural exchange. This policy shall apply to all JTC tournaments, regardless of the country in which it is hosted.

## Background

In line with the Aims and Objectives of the JTC Trust, seven core aims have been identified, which should inform all activities for children and young people:

- Have a flying start in life,
- Have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities,
- Enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation,
- Have free access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities,
- Are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised,
- Have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing,
- Are not disadvantaged by poverty.

The JTC Trust can make a significant contribution to the achievement of these outcomes for young people involved in the sport of Touch. The JTC Trust and all NTAs that provide services for young people have a

duty to safeguard and promote their welfare. The concept of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people is defined as:

- Protecting children from abuse and neglect,
- Preventing impairment of their health or development, and
- Ensuring that they receive safe and effective care.

This policy details referral and other responses to information that may arise concerning child protection concerns, and the requirements for coach, manager and referee training for those working with young people. Working practices and procedures shall be adopted that minimise situations where abuse of children may occur, such as unobserved contact.

This policy identifies that anyone working or volunteering with young people should:

- Understand their role and responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children,
- Be familiar with and follow their own NTA procedures and protocols for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and know who to contact in their NTA to express concerns about a young person's welfare,
- Be alert to indicators of abuse and neglect,
- Have access to and comply with this policy,
- Have received from their NTA child protection training to a level commensurate with their role and responsibilities,
- Know when and how to refer any concerns about child abuse and neglect to social services or the police.

It is essential that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is deeply embedded in the provision of services of the Junior Touch Championships, and all associated contact with young people during the preparation of squads.

The implementation of this safeguarding policy, associated procedures and practice

guidelines will help to minimise the risk of abuse, foster an environment where concerns can be shared and inappropriate behaviour challenged and provide parents and carers with reassurance that they are leaving their children in a safe environment.

## Statement of Intent

The JTC Trust acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people and is fully committed to developing a robust policy and procedure that minimises the risk of children experiencing abuse within Touch in Europe.

The JTC Trust aims to ensure all children have a positive, enjoyable and beneficial experience in Touch in Europe in a safe and secure environment.

The JTC Trust recognises that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and expects all staff, coaches, managers, referees and volunteers to be fully committed to promoting and implementing the policy throughout the sport.

This policy is mandatory for anyone participating in the JTC who is involved either directly or indirectly with children as part of their role in the tournament.

Furthermore, anyone who supplies a service for young people on behalf of the JTC Trust, an NTA or affiliated club must demonstrate that they have met equivalent standards as those set out in this policy and will be required to comply with this safeguarding policy for the duration of their involvement with the tournament.

## Core Principles

This Policy is based upon the following fundamental principles:

- The welfare of young people is paramount,
- The welfare of families and community shall always be promoted,
- Young people's needs are the central consideration in all decision making,
- The rights and emotional state of young people and their families are to be respected,
- All young people, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, parental status, disability, religion or belief, colour, race, ethnic or national origins, or socio/economic background have a right to be protected from abuse,
- There is a duty of care to safeguard children and work in partnership with relevant stakeholders (police, social services, NSPCC, children, parents/carers, other organisations) is key to meeting this responsibility,
- Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility,
- That the Junior Touch Championships Code of Conduct is respected.

## Legislation

The following are the key pieces of legislation and government guidance that are most relevant to the policy and procedures:

- Children Act 1989
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

## Objectives

The JTC Trust is committed to fulfilling its safeguarding responsibilities. The key objectives include:

- To ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is able to contribute effectively to the safeguarding process,
- To ensure that all those working or volunteering with young people within Touch are able to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to young people and able to contribute effectively to safeguarding,
- To ensure everyone has access to opportunities to learn about safeguarding at a level commensurate with their role and responsibilities,
- To promote safe practice and ensure appropriate and timely action is taken to address poor practice,
- To ensure that all allegations or suspicions of abuse are reported to the police and/or social services and contribute as required to the child protection process,
- To foster effective partnerships with the EFT, NTAs and clubs to promote safeguarding and effectively manage the sport's response to concerns arising,
- To manage effectively information sharing with other relevant agencies in the interests of safeguarding young people,
- To operate robust recruitment policy and selection process to help deter and prevent unsuitable people from becoming involved in Touch and ensure anyone who is subsequently considered unsuitable is removed.

## JTC Trust Responsibilities

The overall responsibility for safeguarding rests with the European Federation of Touch who will ensure the JTC Trust procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children comply with the relevant EU laws. The JTC Trust has appointed a Lead Officer for Safeguarding who will be responsible for managing the response to safeguarding concerns and implementing this policy.

The European Federation of Touch will also ensure there is a nominated welfare officer for each NTA while the JTC Trust will nominate a welfare officer for the duration of the event.

The JTC Trust will develop and monitor an implementation plan that sets out how it will work towards meeting the requirements of the Framework for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in and through Sport (NSPCC CPSU 2009).

JTC Trust is responsible for regulating the conduct of individuals during the tournament and will work in partnership with the EFT and NTAs to ensure that all concerns, allegations or suspicions of abuse in relation to any child are swiftly reported to the Police and/or Social Services and all relevant information is shared to support these organisations to fulfil their safeguarding roles.

The JTC Trust works in partnership with the EFT in the management of safeguarding concerns and will share any safeguarding concerns and will jointly manage cases that relate to individuals who are also members of the EFT.

For the duration of the tournament, the JTC Trust will establish a Case Management Executive, which is made up of individuals with the appropriate safeguarding knowledge, skills and experience. The Group will be responsible for determining the appropriate course of action in the event of a safeguarding concern during the tournament.

This will include:

- Reporting of abuse cases to external authorities, if this has not already taken place,
- Agreeing any necessary interim protection measures pending the outcome of the case e.g. suspension of participation or membership,
- Agreeing appropriate remedial action.

The JTC Trust and the European Federation of Touch empowers the Case Management Executive to take decisions on any interim measures or remedial actions.

In the event of an allegation against a member of staff, coach, referee, volunteer, employee or other person with an involvement in the tournament, The JTC Trust through the Case Management Executive will take action to ensure young people are protected and, where appropriate will support the prosecution of individuals accused of abuse of a child/children.

The JTC Trust will work in partnership with NTAs and other relevant organisations to ensure all other safeguarding related misconduct or poor practice issues/non-compliance with policy are appropriately addressed.

As a condition of entry, the JTC Trust will require participating nations to appoint a welfare officer who will have the key responsibility for safeguarding within their nation. This welfare officer must hold a DBS or similar criminal record check.

In addition, the JTC Trust requires that all participating teams have at least one adult coach or manager who has completed an accredited basic Protecting Young People awareness course.

The JTC Trust requires that NTAs operate robust safe recruitment and selection processes for the coaches, managers and medical staff.

The JTC Trust recognises the importance of providing support to members to comply with the requirements of this policy and procedures and will seek to facilitate the provision of accessible safeguarding training and other e-learning opportunities.

# NTA Responsibilities

All EFT Member nations that provide activities and opportunities for young people have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

The JTC Trust requires all registered NTAs to:

- Formally sign up to this policy and procedures or adopt a NTA specific policy that complies with appropriate legislative requirements in their own country.
- Ensure a senior official within the NTA has the overall responsibility for safeguarding.
- Identify at least one individual designated person (Welfare Officer) within the national squad to take the lead responsibility for safeguarding. This role should include:
  - Responding to child protection and poor practice concerns in partnership with the NTA Lead Officer and local statutory agencies if required,
  - Promoting the welfare of young people and importance of safeguarding,
  - Involving young people in the safeguarding process,
  - Supporting staff and volunteers to understand their safeguarding role and responsibilities,
  - Carrying out regular reviews of safeguarding within the club and ensuring any identified risks are appropriately managed;
  - Promoting safe recruitment and selection practices.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers who are working directly or indirectly with young people receive appropriate training and have access to advice on child protection and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people through the NTA welfare officer.
- Ensure safe recruitment and selection practices are in operation for all new coaches, managers and volunteers working with young people.

- Ensure that any concerns about poor practice by existing staff and volunteers are addressed
- Engage with young people and their parents/carers to encourage them to feel able to raise concerns and support them to understand how they can contribute to safeguarding.

It is not the role of any one person within the sport to investigate suspected or alleged abuse. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that all concerns are reported without delay, in line with the relevant procedures, to Social Services and/or the Police.

## Equality

The JTC Trust recognises the importance of ensuring that there are procedures in place that ensure *all* children are protected from abuse and poor practice. The Trust acknowledges that some children, including young people with disabilities or children from an ethnic minority community can be more vulnerable to abuse. Care will be taken in coordination with NTAs to ensure additional safeguards are in place during the tournament to take account of individual needs, and recognise that there may be additional challenges that need to be addressed to help all young people raise concerns.

# Policy Review and Monitoring

This policy is live and will continue to be updated and reviewed at the Board of Trustees AGM in each calendar year. All NTAs shall be made aware of the policy from its inception, and reminded of its existence prior to the tournament.

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and in light of:

- Changes in relevant legislation and/or government guidance,
- Requirements of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards, NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit, and
- Lessons learned from serious cases.

In addition, The JTC Trust will review the effectiveness and implementation of the policy and procedures by:

- Monitoring compliance with the policy and procedures,
- Providing an annual short report to the EFT on all matters relating to safeguarding,
- Carrying out case reviews following the conclusion of any major child protection case at the tournament,
- Reviewing the outcomes for the child in cases where the Case Management Executive has taken action,
- Seeking the views of key stakeholders in the sport, including young people.