

Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

Norfolk Bladers (Norfolk Gaming Events Limited T/A Norfolk Bladers) is a limited company hosting monthly Beyblade events for adults and children. We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of every child, young person and vulnerable adult who attends or participates in our activities.

This Safeguarding Policy outlines:

- Our commitment to protecting children and vulnerable adults
- What behaviour is expected from adults
- How we prevent, identify and respond to safeguarding concerns
- The responsibilities of participants, parents/carers and directors

This policy applies to all directors, adult participants, children, parents/carers and visitors at any Norfolk Bladers (Norfolk Gaming Events Limited T/A Norfolk Bladers) event or online platform.

2. Our Commitment

Norfolk Bladers (Norfolk Gaming Events Limited T/A Norfolk Bladers) is committed to:

- Providing a safe, inclusive and positive environment for children and adults.
- Promoting the welfare, rights and dignity of all participants.
- Preventing abuse and minimising risks through safe practice and supervision.
- Responding quickly and appropriately to safeguarding concerns.
- Working transparently with parents/carers and external agencies when needed.

We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

3. Definitions

Safeguarding

Safeguarding means protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse, neglect or exploitation, and ensuring their wellbeing.

Child

Anyone under the age of 18.

Forms of Abuse

Abuse can include (but is not limited to):

- **Physical abuse** – hitting, shaking, or physical harm
- **Emotional abuse** – humiliation, intimidation, threats, persistent criticism
- **Sexual abuse** – inappropriate contact, sexualised behaviour, grooming
- **Neglect** – failure to meet basic needs (supervision, safety, food, medical care)
- **Bullying** – including online or discriminatory bullying
- **Domestic abuse** – children witnessing or affected by domestic violence
- **Online abuse** – harmful content, inappropriate messaging, exploitation

All concerns — even uncertain ones — must be taken seriously.

4. Preventing Harm: Safe Practice

Behaviour Expectations

All adults and participants must:

- Treat children and young people with respect and kindness.
- Use age-appropriate language and maintain appropriate boundaries.
- Avoid behaviour that could be misinterpreted as threatening, suggestive or discriminatory.

- Never engage in rough physical play with children.
- Avoid being alone one-to-one with a child whenever possible.

Safe Supervision

Events will have appropriate levels of supervision based on attendance and the presence of children.

Children remain the responsibility of their parents/carers unless a different arrangement has been formally agreed.

Venue Safety

Norfolk Bladers (Norfolk Gaming Events Limited T/A Norfolk Bladers) will follow all venue safety rules, including fire procedures and first aid arrangements.

Online Safety

All communication involving children must be appropriate and group-based.

5. Recruitment and Training

Individuals representing Norfolk Bladers (Norfolk Gaming Events Limited T/A Norfolk Bladers) in roles with safeguarding responsibility may be asked to complete a DBS check (where relevant to their involvement).

Those in positions involving responsibility will:

- Be made aware of safeguarding expectations
- Be informed of procedures for handling concerns

Induction and training (where relevant) may include:

- Recognising signs of abuse
- Behaviour expectations and boundaries
- Actions to take when concerns arise
- Reporting processes

Training will be refreshed as needed.

6. Recognising and Responding to Concerns

How Concerns May Arise

Concerns may arise through:

- A disclosure from a child or adult
- Physical signs or behavioural indicators
- Reports from parents or participants
- Online interactions
- Observed inappropriate behaviour

Responding to a Disclosure

If a child or adult shares information:

- Listen calmly and objectively
- Do not promise confidentiality
- Acknowledge and validate what is shared
- Record information using the person's own words
- Report concerns to the Safeguarding Lead

Reporting Procedure

- All concerns must be reported to the Safeguarding Lead as soon as practicable
- If urgent and the Lead is unavailable, a trustee or relevant authority may be contacted
- In emergencies, contact police or emergency services

All records will be stored securely.

The wellbeing of the child or vulnerable adult remains the priority.

7. Managing Allegations Against Participants

If an allegation is raised against any individual:

- The Safeguarding Lead will be informed immediately
- The person concerned may be asked not to participate while enquiries take place
- A factual record will be kept
- External agencies may be involved when appropriate, such as:
 - Police
 - Local Authority Safeguarding Teams
 - NSPCC

Parents/carers will be informed unless doing so places anyone at further risk.

8. Confidentiality and Communication

Norfolk Bladers (Norfolk Gaming Events Limited T/A Norfolk Bladers) will:

- Store information securely
- Share safeguarding concerns only with appropriate individuals or authorities

Safeguarding matters will never be discussed publicly or on social media.

9. Supporting Participants

Norfolk Bladers (Norfolk Gaming Events Limited T/A Norfolk Bladers) will:

- Respond to concerns respectfully and professionally
- Support anyone affected by a safeguarding issue
- Work with parents/carers where appropriate

10. Safeguarding Contact

For any safeguarding related concerns, please email:

safeguarding@norfolkbladers.co.uk

11. Reviewing the Policy

This Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed:

- Annually
- After any safeguarding incident
- Following legal or regulatory changes

Feedback from directors, participants and families will support policy improvement.

Last reviewed: [31/01/2026]