



JUNIOR BELFAST GIANTS ICE HOCKEY CLUB CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

This Safeguarding policy is based on guidelines and legislation outlined in the following documents:

- Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport, Sport Northern Ireland 2007.
- Children (NI) Order 1995
- Our Duty to Care NI, DHSSPS 2007
- Getting It Right, DHSSPS 2004
- Co-operating to Safeguard Children DHSSPS 2003
- Protection of Children And Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order Information Notes 1 -3
- Area Child Protection Committee – Regional Child Protection Policy 2005
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007

Safeguarding or Child Protection

The term child protection has been changed to safeguarding as it reflects the wider responsibility for health and safety and prevention as well as protection from abuse. The word safeguarding has been used with increasing frequency over the last few years in a wide range of settings and situations, going well beyond the world of children and child protection. It may be defined as:

“Doing everything possible to minimise the risk of harm to children and young people”

Safeguarding is about being proactive and putting measures in place in advance of any contact with children to ensure that children are going to be kept safe. This could include:

- ensuring staff and volunteers are properly checked when they are recruited
- provision of guidelines for people who come into contact with children as part of their role to ensure they know what they need to do to keep children safe
- provision of guidelines for planning an event or activity with children and putting measures in place to minimise the risk of safeguarding issues occurring



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POLICY STATEMENT

The Junior Belfast Giants Ice Hockey Club are committed to good practice which protects children from harm. Staff and volunteers accept and recognise their responsibility to provide an environment which promotes the safety of the child at all times. To achieve this we will:

- Develop an awareness of the issues which may lead to children being harmed
- Create an open environment by identifying a 'Designated person' to whom the children can turn to if they need to talk
- Adopt child-centred and democratic coaching styles
- Adopt Safeguarding guidelines through codes of conduct for members and all adults working at the club - adult workers include coaches, parents and volunteers
- Ensure careful recruitment, selection and management procedures which will include regular support and supervision is provided to staff/volunteers
- Ensure complaints, grievance and disciplinary procedures are included in our constitution
- Share information about concerns with children, parents and others who need to know
- Provide information as required to the management committee
- Ensure good and safe working/playing practices
- Be involved in training made available through the various agencies and strengthen links with these agencies
- Keep Safeguarding policies under regular review (minimum every 3 years)
- Have procedures relating specifically to bullying, away trips, transport and use of photography
- Have an induction document available for parents, coaches and children clearly outlining their rights and responsibilities

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order (1995) is based on a clear and consistent set of principles designed with the common aim of promoting the welfare of children.

Children have the right to be safe. All coaches should ensure that this fundamental principle takes precedence over all other considerations.

This policy applies to all those involved in Junior Belfast Giants Ice Hockey Club, coaches, administrators, officials, volunteer drivers, parents and young people.