

Welfare & Safe Sport Strategy

VISION

A future where Touch in Scotland is a safe, welcoming and inclusive sport in which children, young people and adults can participate, develop and perform with confidence.

Everyone involved in Scottish Touch should be safe and feel safe.

We want to create a culture in which players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents and supporters understand their role in protecting the welfare of others and feel confident to raise concerns when something does not feel right.

OUR COMMITMENT

Scottish Touch is committed to providing sporting environments that promote wellbeing, dignity, respect and safety. Safe sport is everyone's responsibility.

We will work to ensure that safeguarding and welfare are embedded throughout Scottish Touch, from grassroots participation and our Youth Academy through to representative and performance programmes.

OUR APPROACH

Leadership - lead responsibly and be accountable. Scottish Touch will provide clear leadership on welfare, safeguarding and safe sport and will continue to develop a culture in which safeguarding is recognised as a core organisational responsibility.

Culture - create an environment where everyone feels safe. We will promote a positive safeguarding culture in which everyone involved in Touch is treated with dignity and respect and can participate without fear of abuse, bullying, harassment, discrimination, neglect or other harm.

Operations - put safe practice into everything we do. Scottish Touch will ensure that its activities are supported by appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures, guidance, risk management and working practices across programmes, competitions, training environments, representative teams, tours and other activities.

OUR FOCUS

- Promote wellbeing, welfare and safeguarding throughout Touch in Scotland.
- Prevent harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, discrimination and inappropriate behaviour wherever reasonably possible.
- Protect children, young people and adults involved in Scottish Touch.
- Listen to players, parents, coaches, officials, staff and volunteers.
- Respond promptly, appropriately and consistently when concerns are raised.
- Learn from concerns, incidents and feedback to continually improve our safeguarding culture and practices.

HOW WE WILL DELIVER THIS

- Keep safeguarding and welfare policies, procedures and guidance accessible, current and fit for purpose.

- Communicate safeguarding responsibilities and expectations clearly to players, coaches, officials, staff, volunteers and parents.
- Ensure individuals undertaking regulated or other relevant roles meet appropriate PVG and safeguarding requirements applicable in Scotland.
- Provide appropriate safeguarding training and guidance for people in positions of responsibility or trust, contextualised for Touch.
- Provide clear and accessible routes for raising concerns and ensure Scottish Touch representatives know where to obtain safeguarding and welfare advice.
- Record, consider and act upon concerns promptly and in accordance with relevant procedures.
- Listen to the voices and experiences of children, young people, adult participants, parents, volunteers, coaches and officials to understand whether people feel safe and are safe.
- Promote welfare and safe sport awareness from grassroots and youth participation through to senior representative and performance environments.
- Build safeguarding and welfare considerations into competitions, camps, tours and representative activities, working with clubs, leagues, event organisers and relevant external organisations.
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality while sharing information when necessary to protect an individual from harm.

SAFE SPORT CULTURE AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Creating a safe sport is about more than complying with policies. Scottish Touch wants everyone involved in Touch to recognise unacceptable behaviour, understand how to respond to concerns and feel confident that concerns will be taken seriously. Children and young people require particular protection, and the welfare and best interests of the child or young person will be a primary consideration in decisions affecting their participation.

GOVERNANCE AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Scottish Touch will review its approach regularly and use feedback, reported concerns and organisational learning to strengthen its arrangements. The Board of Scottish Touch will retain oversight of welfare and safeguarding and seek appropriate assurance that safeguarding arrangements are being implemented effectively.

RAISING A CONCERN

Anyone who has a concern about the welfare or safety of a child, young person or adult involved in Scottish Touch should raise it as soon as possible through Scottish Touch's safeguarding reporting arrangements.

Safeguarding / Welfare Contact

Email

Viv Mathieson
07814 468071

safeguarding@touch.scot

If someone is at immediate risk of harm, the appropriate emergency services or statutory authorities should be contacted.