

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Port Talbot Friday Night darts league [PTFNDL] is committed to preventing and responding to risks of harm to and promoting the welfare of all children that we have playing in our league. The league has a minimum age policy of children 14 or over, so children under that age are deemed as not being part of the PTFNDL, so will not be covered under this statement of purpose.

We recognise the importance of this commitment to safety and welfare and, further, are committed to safeguarding all these children, without discrimination due to an individual's age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, gender reassignment or sexual orientation.

This Safeguarding Policy is based on the safeguarding laws of England, Wales, and Scotland, including related guidance issued by the UK Government and relevant governmental departments, agencies, and public bodies. If this Policy is at any time inconsistent with this body of law, PTFNDL will act to meet the requirements of up-to-date safeguarding laws in priority to the requirements set out in this Policy.

PTFNDL has implemented this Safeguarding Policy in order to meet its obligations as an organisation working with children.

Any questions in relation to this Policy should be referred to the specified safeguarding officer appointed by the league, failing that, the league committee

SCOPE OF THIS SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This Policy explains key aspects of how PTFNDL prevents harm in relation to its junior players via its practices and its players conduct.

This Safeguarding Policy covers the organisation and operation of all of PTFNDL activities involving children (i.e. our Relevant Activities). These primarily include:

- a. 'To organise and administer darts events for children under the age of 18.'

This Policy's guidelines and obligations apply to all individuals playing or involved in PTFNDL at all levels, from players, team representatives and the league committee.

DEFINING SAFEGUARDING

For the purpose of the PTFNDL, 'Safeguarding' is an umbrella term that refers to environments in which the league participates and is aimed at preventing or responding to harm or risks of harm posed to vulnerable individuals, and at promoting these individuals' wider welfare. Safeguarding is particularly important for children and adults at risk. Most safeguarding legal obligations relate to the care of these groups. This Safeguarding Policy specifically deals with safeguarding children. For safeguarding purposes, children are individuals younger than 18 years old.

The commitments and practices contained in this Safeguarding Policy apply to the safeguarding of PTFNDL junior players from harm caused by either:

1. The activities and practices of players, Representatives or the league committee, or b.
2. People and situations outside of the PTFNDL control, where PTFNDL are aware of, ought to be aware of, or reasonably suspect the risks posed by a situation.

PTFNDL SAFEGUARDING POLICY

For the purposes of this Policy, a 'Safeguarding Concern' is any conduct or situation that is known or reasonably suspected by a player, team representative, league committee or another party that risks violating the safeguarding commitments set out above.

KEY MEASURES THAT PTFNDL IS COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING AND MAINTAINING TO SAFEGUARD ITS JUNIOR PLAYERS.

Ensuring that players, team Reps or league committee are encouraged to report any Safeguarding Concerns that they identify. Players, team Reps or league committee will be encouraged to follow PTFNDL safeguarding reporting procedures as closely as possible when reporting concerns (set out below under the heading '**Procedures: Reporting**').

Ensuring that all players, team Reps or league committee listen to all safeguarding-related queries and concerns raised by other players, team Reps, league committee or relevant other parties, with respect and professionalism.

Ensuring that all reported Safeguarding Concerns are dealt with by appropriate individuals and teams and in accordance with the PTFNDL relevant procedures (set out below under the heading '**Procedures: Investigation and Response**').

Implementing and maintaining comprehensive, accessible, fair, and efficient procedures for to use when reporting to players, team Reps or league committee and dealing with Safeguarding Concerns. These procedures will be made known and easily accessible to all players, team Reps and league committee members.

1. Procedures will be designed to ensure all safeguarding issues are dealt with fairly and objectively even when allegations are made against one of the PTFNDL Members. Any such allegations will be treated in a manner that takes into account the gravity of the accusations, but which does not vilify or presume the guilt of an accused individual without a fair investigation.
2. Any reports that qualify as protected disclosures under whistleblowing law will be treated securely and in a protected manner in line with whistleblowing law.

The appointed safeguarding officer to hold responsibility for managing safeguarding policies and procedures within the PTFNDL. This includes:

1. Following the PTFNDL policies and procedure Providing appropriate safeguarding advice or appropriate action.
2. Following the requirements set out by the UK's data protection laws, including The UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.
3. Ensuring Staff Members always have an identifiable point of contact for questions or concerns.
4. Only sharing information about a Safeguarding Concern internally as far as is necessary to manage the concern for the relevant Beneficiary's benefit. Ensuring transparency and awareness regarding safeguarding information and procedures.
5. Ensuring transparency and awareness regarding safeguarding information and procedures. For example, by:
 - a. Providing information to juniors about our safeguarding procedures so that they are aware of how to raise any concerns.
 - b. Ensuring all are aware of players, team Reps or league committee safeguarding laws, PTFNDL safeguarding commitments and procedures, and all Members responsibilities in relation to these.

Regularly reviewing all safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that they are up to date with safeguarding law and that they remain suitable for PTFNDL Relevant Activities. Players, team reps and league committee responsibilities.

All Members have a responsibility to promote the safety and wellbeing of all of Junior players. This means that all of PTFNDL policies and procedures relevant to safeguarding and all UK laws relevant to safeguarding must be followed at all times. Specifically: All Members must contribute to upholding the key measures that the PTFNDL has committed to taking to safeguard its juniors (set out above) to an extent that is appropriate for their role, responsibilities, and degree and type of contact with junior players. If a member is uncertain as to their responsibilities, it is their responsibility to raise this with the safeguarding officer.

Members must never do anything to actively risk the safety or wellbeing of any of the PTFNDL juniors. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Subjecting them to or facilitating abuse of any sort.
2. Engaging in any sexual activity with children (i.e. anybody under the age of 18).
3. Participating in or facilitating any activities that may commercially exploit junior players. For example, failing to report suspected child labour or trafficking.

Members must report all Safeguarding Concerns that they have regarding junior players, regardless of whether the concerns relate to potential wrongdoing of other Members, other junior players, or external parties (e.g. parents, teachers, other organisations, or members of the public).

PROCEDURES: REPORTING

1. Report any safeguarding concerns immediately to either:
 - a. If of a minor matter, report directly, in person, to the safeguarding officer/committee member/team representative that are present.
 - b. If of a minor matter, report by telephone/email/other electronic method to the safeguarding officer.
 - c. If the issue is deemed of a more serious nature, to the police, ambulance, mental health professional by calling 999.
2. Should the safeguarding issue be with the named safeguarding officer report to the league committee either in person or by email.

If a member feels unable to follow the above steps, they should report their Safeguarding Concern in a reasonable alternative manner. This may be the case if, for example:

1. Following the above procedure would require disclosing the concern to somebody who is implicated in the Safeguarding Concern or who the Member is otherwise uncomfortable contacting about this concern, or
2. The matter is time sensitive and involves a risk of serious harm to somebody, in which case contacting an external agency (e.g. the police, the ambulance service, or a mental health crisis line) may be more appropriate.

PROCEDURES: INVESTIGATION AND RESPONSE

Reported Safeguarding Concerns will be dealt with promptly by appropriate individuals within the PTFNDL, in accordance with our safeguarding response procedures and safeguarding laws. Details of these procedures are available on the online website or contact the league safeguarding officer.

Members who report a Safeguarding Concern will be kept informed about the progression of the matter they reported to an appropriate degree. Note that, depending on the nature of the concern and consequent investigations, some information about matters may be kept confidential and not shared with the reporter.

If a member is found to be in breach of this Safeguarding Policy or safeguarding law in general, they will be treated fairly and will only be disciplined if appropriate in the circumstances and in accordance with league procedures.

Referrals or notifications to external organisations (e.g. police services, local authorities, or regulatory bodies) will be made when, and only when, this is appropriate, and will always be made in accordance with the law (e.g. data protection law).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND OTHER PROTECTIONS

PTFNDL does not hold specific documentation in place that support this Safeguarding Policy. Reports are initially to be made either:

1. In person, if the safeguarding officer/committee member/team representative are present.
2. By telephone/email/other electronic method to the safeguarding officer.
3. If the issue is deemed of a more serious nature, to the police, ambulance, mental health professional by calling 999.

All reports will be held in strictest privacy as per Data Protection laws and policies and will only be made available when/if this law permits.

All reports or investigations will be progressed efficiently, including cooperation with other possible agencies [Police, Ambulance, Mental health Professionals] and documentation made available when permission exists.