

Guide for Club Members

1. Introduction

The Club warmly encourages the participation of all young players. We aim to promote their enjoyment of a game that we adults love too and wish to share. We aim to aid their development as players and their growth into adulthood. At all times their enjoyment and their well-being are of the utmost importance – it is the rightful concern of every adult club member to be aware, to be observant, and to be an active promoter of the highest standards towards young people*.

* ‘Young players’, ‘child’ and ‘young people’ in this guide is taken to mean anyone under the age of 18 years (irrespective of their apparent independence, self-reliance and maturity).

2. What Young Players Can Expect of the Club

Children and young people must expect an experience which will enable them to feel that they are:-

- treated equitably and with fairness
- met with friendly warmth and encouragement
- accorded respect
- safe to develop their potential for and enjoyment of badminton

3. What is Expected of Adult Members, Coaches and Helpers

You are expected to display positive, supportive behaviours whenever you are with or around young players.

- You should familiarise yourself with the Codes of Conduct and Anti-Bullying Statement attached to the Club’s Child Welfare Policy*.

(*available from the Club website, www.unicornbadminton.org.uk/)

In addition, you must understand that your own responsibilities with regard to child welfare and safeguarding extend beyond just that of your own personal actions. As such, you must:-

- be aware of the state of well-being of young people
- be aware of the behaviour of young people towards other young people
- be aware of the behaviour of other adults towards young people
- take appropriate action if you observe any matter of concern

It is not acceptable for adults to *'leave it for someone else to deal with'* when a child is being treated in an inappropriate manner. You must also be aware that *behaviours you walk on past without comment or action become behaviours you condone*. If you are not sure, there are invariably other adults around with whom you can confer over a matter of concern – in particular, you must take any concern to the Child Welfare Officer or the Chairman or any other member of the Club Committee.

4. Teams, Matches and Travel

By the time young players get to the playing standard and maturity to benefit from playing in matches, they often have such a degree of self-assurance and confidence that it is easy to forget that they are still children. Nevertheless, if they are under the age of 18 then they are. They still require our particular care and attention to their needs.

- Their experience in matches should be as described in Section 2.

If not accompanied by an adult family member, the young person

- should always remain accompanied by one or more adults (for example when waiting for their lift to arrive)
- should always have at least two adults in the car with them if they are being given a lift to and from the match

The Club recognises that the latter bullet may present considerable practical difficulties where strict adherence is impractical. In those circumstances, it is essential that the driver has

- introduced themselves and met with the parents prior to or on collecting the player
- given the parents an approximate return time
- given the parents a useable contact mobile telephone number

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to the Club's Child Welfare Officer or the Chairman