



## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT**

Western Storm welcomes its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk and is fully committed to ensuring all who participate have a safe, positive and fun experience.

We ensure our safeguarding culture promotes and encourages best practice which reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with regulatory requirements. As a minimum, we adopt the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) "Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children".

Our policy encompasses all activity within professional cricket (first and second teams), the Academy and Talent Pathway. It also relates to events and activities held at any venues being used by Western Storm to host matches, training or any other related activity. We deem children to be anyone under the age of 18 years.

We prioritise the welfare and interests of vulnerable groups in all circumstances. We aim to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all people:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at Western Storm in a safe and secure environment;
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in any activity provided by Western Storm, or outside of the activity.

We understand that adults at risk, some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. As part of our Safeguarding Policy, we commit to:

- fostering a safe culture and environment across all activities which promotes and prioritises the safety, wellbeing and enjoyment of children, young people and adults at risk;

- ensuring all colleagues understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding, are provided with appropriate training and learning opportunities, including about our policy and procedures, to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns and are empowered to appropriately act on those concerns;
- creating opportunities for children, young people, vulnerable adults, parents/guardians, staff and anyone else to have a voice and be listened to;
- ensuring all suspicions, concerns and allegations are taken seriously, with swift and appropriate action taken and providing support to the individual/s who raises or discloses the concern;
- adopting the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) "Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children";
- appointing a Safeguarding Lead, ensuring they attend the appropriate training and have the necessary skills to undertake their role effectively and are visible and accessible;
- sending regular, visible messages about safeguarding through all communication channels available to us;
- ensuring our recruitment procedures adhere to safer recruitment practices to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals, including acquiring DBS checks prior to employment and ensuring DBS records are up to date;
- ensuring that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored in line with our GDPR policy;
- ensuring robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

## **Monitoring**

We will review this policy annually or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance;
- as required by the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB);
- as a result of any other significant change or event.