

Child Protection Policy

The Guernsey Volleyball Association (the “GVA”) is committed to the protection, health, safety and welfare of children or young people (under age 18) who play or otherwise participate in Volleyball at all levels.

The GVA fully endorses The Volleyball Association Child Protection Policy and is guided as appropriate by The English Volleyball Association Child Protection Procedures and Practices Handbook (details can be found on the Volleyball England website

– http://www.volleyballengland.org/about_us/safeguarding/policy_and_guidance)

The aims of The Volleyball Association Child Protection Policy are:

- To develop a positive and pro-active position in order to best protect all children and young people who play Volleyball, enabling them to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- To deliver quality assured child protection training and build a network of coaches to facilitate this delivery, in conjunction with, and supported by, the NSPCC.
- To demonstrate best practice in the area of child protection.
- To promote ethics and high standards throughout volleyball.

The key principles underpinning this policy are that:

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration;
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity;
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents or carers is essential.

Regulations of the GVA:

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.

2. In these Regulations the expression “Offence” shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The GVA to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

3. Upon receipt by the GVA of:

3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or

3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, social services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or

3.3 any other information which causes the GVA reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then the GVA shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific volleyball activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made the GVA shall give consideration to the factors:-

4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;

4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;

4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by the GVA or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.

5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of the GVA or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.

6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, the GVA shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of the GVA against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

7. Where a person is convicted or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the rules of the GVA and the GVA shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football for such period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

8. For the purposes of these Regulations, the GVA shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.

9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

10. The applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard of the balance of probability. The more serious the allegation taking into account the nature of the misconduct alleged and the context of the case the greater the burden of evidence required to find the matter proved. Save that for charges pursuant to The Volleyball Association's Child Protection Policy, where the welfare and protection of children shall be paramount and the test shall be whether more likely than not.

Child Protection and best practice Guidelines:

The GVA will use its best endeavours to adopt, and ensure that members adopt, wherever reasonably practicable, recommended guidelines provided by the GVA and/or others in relation to:

- Recruitment and selection of volunteers working with children and young people.
- The use of images of children and young people.
- Equal opportunities, anti-discrimination, racism, bullying and whistle blowing policies.
- Codes of Conduct