

FOUR NATIONS' CHESS LEAGUE

Safeguarding

Context: The Four Nations' Chess League (hereinafter the 4NCL) organises the foremost chess league in the United Kingdom, as well as the Junior 4NCL, 4NCL Online and various congresses throughout the year. The 4NCL seeks to promote and develop chess. Events are held at a range of destinations which provide venues for the competitions and also, if required, accommodation for participating players, their parents, carers or guardians. As such, these events are somewhat different in nature from standard traditional league matches, and the 4NCL Safeguarding Policy is therefore subject to the caveat given below.

Caveat: The 4NCL Safeguarding Policy applies to all players, parents, carers, guardians, spectators and officials who utilise any areas designated as parts of the competition venue, that is, any designated playing area, analysis room, spectating area or waiting area, whilst competitions are in progress. The 4NCL Safeguarding Policy **does not apply** to areas of the venue outside these limits, such as bar areas, public lounge areas or bedrooms. Problems which arise in these areas should be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Advice for non-participants: Whenever possible, any non-participants (parents, carers, guardians, etc.) should use the waiting areas provided. If there are reasons for them to be present in the playing area, **under no circumstances** (unless there is serious risk to the safety or well-being of an individual) should they interfere, intervene or make comment on games in progress or immediately afterwards. Any comments or complaints should be directed only to the organisers or arbiters, as appropriate.

Safeguarding Policy

The Four Nations' Chess League (hereinafter the 'League') organises team chess competitions. The League seeks to promote and develop chess. It recognises the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people aged up to 18 years, and of vulnerable adults. It is committed to ensuring that safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, as well as government and ECF guidance, and complies with best practice. The League recognises that the welfare and interests of children and young people and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or identity, or socioeconomic background, all children, young people and vulnerable adults:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of chess in a safe and sociable environment;

- are protected from harm and abuse whilst travelling to and from, and participating in chess events.

It also aims to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding. The League acknowledges that some children, young people and vulnerable adults can be subject to abuse and recognises the need to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare at League-organised events. With respect to safeguarding at such events, the League will seek to:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- value, listen to and respect children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- ensure that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- make clear who the designated Lead for Safeguarding and the Safeguarding Officers are, and explain their respective roles;
- ensure that appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse, and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern;
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored;
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals;
- ensure that robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation;
- share concerns with relevant agencies, involving parents and children appropriately.

This approach will be followed as far as is practicable for everyone involved in League-organised events, including its officers. It will also be promoted to all member teams of the League. Failure to comply will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the organisation, as appropriate.

League Safeguarding Personnel

The League will appoint a Lead for Safeguarding and Safeguarding Officers (SOs).

The responsibilities of a Safeguarding Officer (SO) will be in accordance with the role description for a Safeguarding Officer in the Appendix.

The League will reimburse any reasonable expenses for the SO in respect of safeguarding training.

The Lead for Safeguarding for the 4NCL is:

Name: Mike Truran

Contact: mike@truranfamily.co.uk

The Safeguarding Officers for the 4NCL are:

Name: Jo Wildman

Contact: safeguarding.officer@englishchess.org.uk

Tel : 07583 337307

Name: Paul Sharratt

Contact: safeguarding.officer@englishchess.org.uk

Tel : 07515 688795

4NCL Guidance for teams

The 4NCL recommends that all participating teams:

- (i) should read and be familiar with relevant legal and ECF guidance and this League Policy;
- (ii) should be aware of the requirement promptly to report any relevant incident to the SO (or to the police, in the event of an emergency or imminent threat to a child, young person or vulnerable adult). If the SO is unavailable on the day the incident occurs, reporting shall be either to a previously designated alternative, or to the SO as soon as practicable;
- (iii) ensure that a child or young person travelling to an event is accompanied by a parent/carer or person acting in loco parentis. The parent/carer or person acting in loco parentis shall be responsible for the welfare of the child or young person at all times whilst travelling or at the match or event. The organisers of the event shall be entitled to enquire who is acting as the parent/carer or person acting in loco parentis before play commences or at any time whilst the child or young person is at the match or event.

Legal framework

This statement has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act

and relevant government guidance on safeguarding children including:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015).

Monitoring:

The statement will be reviewed annually by the 4NCL Safeguarding Team, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government or ECF guidance
- if required by the Management Board of the 4NCL
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

The 4NCL Safeguarding Policy is approved by the Management Board of the 4NCL:

Signed: 

Date: 12/6/2025

Name and Designation of Signatory

M. C. TRUKAN (FINANCE DIRECTOR)

Date of last Review: 31/5/2025

Date of next Review: 31/5/2026

Signature: 

(On behalf of the 4NCL Board)

Appendix: Role description for a 4NCL safeguarding officer

Reports to: The League Lead for Safeguarding

Requirement: Appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check and references. Safeguarding experience is desirable.

Purpose: To ensure that the League has appropriate arrangements for keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults safe when they attend any League-organised event. Also, to promote their safety and welfare at all times.

Responsibilities: The safeguarding officer will use their best endeavours to:

- (i) ensure that all issues concerning the safety and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults who attend League events are properly dealt with;
- (ii) ensure that everyone involved with League events has access to the League Safeguarding Policy and is aware of what they should do if they have issues/concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult;
- (iii) receive, record and report information from anyone who attends a League event and has such issues/concerns;
- (iv) advise and support League staff and volunteers on safeguarding and protection;
- (v) take the lead on dealing with information that may constitute a protection issue/concern around a child, young person or vulnerable adult OR an allegation about a member of staff or volunteer. This includes assessing and clarifying the information, and taking decisions in consultation with the Lead for Safeguarding, and statutory Child and/or Adult Protection Agencies/ Services as required, whilst handling all information sensitively and confidentially;
- (vi) consult with, pass information to and receive information from statutory Protection Agencies/Services such as the Local Authority Child and/or Adult Services and/or the Police. This includes making formal referrals to those agencies if required;
- (vii) be familiar with how local safeguarding boards work and how to contact them;
- (viii) be familiar with issues relating to child protection and keep up to date with developments;
- (ix) attend training on issues relevant to child protection from and share knowledge from that with other members of the League;
- (x) undertake risk assessments, as required, of venues proposed for League-organised events;
- (xi) report to board/committee meetings as required, but at least once per year, at the AGM, on the level of risk management being achieved;
- (xii) undertake annual monitoring and review of the policy;
- (xiii) assist with updating the policy in consultation with the Lead for Safeguarding.