

## WEREWOLVES OF LONDON SPECIAL ICE HOCKEY CLUB

### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT

#### 1. The Name.

The association's name is "The Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club"

#### 2. The Objectives.

The association's objectives are:

**To provide an amateur ice-hockey programme in the interests of social welfare, for recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life of people with developmental disabilities.**

The Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club recognises that there is a paucity of opportunities for children, young people, and adults with developmental disabilities to take part in sporting activities. Through the provision of protective equipment, trained coaches, support, encouragement and dedicated ice time we enable children, young people, and adults to participate in a sport they would never normally be able to try. Any child, young person, or adult with learning difficulties is welcome to become a member and join the team irrespective of skating ability, knowledge of the game or ability to pay for equipment.

We are committed to improving the life chances of our members through providing a programme of sporting activity, promoting training and development through the English Ice Hockey Association (EIHA) coach training programme and providing opportunities for friendship, participation in tournaments and travel. Our programme helps our members to improve their self-confidence and self-esteem, reduce their social isolation, and improve overall health and wellbeing.

#### 3. The Principles /Values that underpin the policy

The welfare of the member is always the first consideration.

All children, young people, and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial origin, religious belief and sexual identity have a right to protection from abuse.

Members of the Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club are children, young people, and vulnerable adults with developmental disabilities. We are committed to nurturing a culture that puts their interests first and enables them to make the most of the skills and abilities that they have to increase their overall wellbeing, self-confidence and self-esteem.

#### 4. Statement of duty to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults

We the Management Committee of the Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club believe that the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults, is everyone's responsibility particularly when it comes to protecting them from abuse. Everyone involved with the Werewolves of London – officials, volunteers, parents/carers, other family members, friends and players themselves can help. We believe that all of us have a part to play in looking after the children, young people and vulnerable adults who come to our club. This is both a moral and a legal obligation as the Children's Act of 1989 states:

That anyone who has the care of a child should do what is reasonable in all circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare.

We will implement and review safeguarding policies and procedures designed to protect our members from abuse.

#### **5. Named Contact for child protection**

The current Child protection Officer is C/O Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club Streatham Ice Arena 390 Streatham High Road Streatham London SW16 6XH. The Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club Child Protection Officer will act as the initial point of contact and promptly report any concerns and issues arising to the designated EIHA Regional Child Protection Officer.

#### **6. User Involvement Committed in the Development and Implementation of Safeguarding Policies.**

Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club are committed to user involvement at every level including the development and implementation of our policies. Whilst our Safeguarding Policy is ultimately delivered through the EIHA policy we will involve our service users in drawing up their own code of conduct around staying safe, playing safe, anti-bullying and respect for others. We will do this through newsletters, questionnaires, interviews for our Player behind the Mask column, and feedback from members, parents and carers.

#### **7. Commitment to reviewing Policies**

We will audit our policies and procedures annually with a view to ratifying any changes at the Management Committee Meeting to be held in June each year for implementation in the following season.

We will undertake a Safeguarding Children from Harm Health-check once per year in June for implementation in the following season.

If any occurrence, suggestion or complaint throughout the year raises a failure or inadequacy in one of our policies or procedures we will address it immediately and changes will be ratified at the next committee meeting.

#### **8. The Policies and Procedures**

The Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club is affiliated to the English Ice Hockey Association and as such is bound by the Association's comprehensive Child Protection Policy and Procedures currently administered through the umbrella group of Streatham Youth Ice Hockey Association. The EIHA developed its handbook in partnership with the NSPCC. The handbook is at: <http://eiha.co.uk/download/eiha-safeguarding-and-protecting-children-master/>

This covers the following:

EIHA: Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Young People from harm -Policy

EIHA: Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Young People from harm -Club Guidelines

EIHA: Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Young People from harm -Complaints Procedure

EIHA: Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Young People from harm -Suspension Policy

Appendices:

- Appendix 1. Club Child Protection Policy Statement.
- Appendix 2. Parental Consent Form
- Appendix 3. Self-Declaration and Disclosure Form
- Appendix 4. Reference Form for Coaches Wanting to Work in Ice Hockey
- Appendix 5. Statement of Confidentiality for Club Child Protection Officers
- Appendix 6. Child Abuse Concerns Procedures Chart
- Appendix 7. Reporting Concerns about Serious Behaviour
- Appendix 8. Useful Contacts
- Appendix 9. Code of Conduct for Coaches, Managers and Volunteers
- Appendix 10. Code of Conduct for Children
- Appendix 11. Code of Conduct for parents and Carers

**Complaints and Whistleblowing** <http://eiha.co.uk/download/eiha-whistle-blowing-policy/>

## **9. Recruitment.**

Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club do not currently employ any staff. We are run by parent volunteers and volunteer coaches. All coaches are EIHA qualified and DBS checked at enhanced level through the EIHA and provide references that are checked by our Club Child Protection Officer. Recruitment to Management Committee roles are decided by election at our Annual General Meeting.

## **10. Induction, training, supervision and appraisal.**

All new players and parents have an initial meeting with a club board member and a Level 2 coach to discuss the special needs of the child, previous experience, use of equipment and safe and appropriate behaviour.

All Level 2 Coaches and the Child Protection Liaison Officer attend a Sports Coach UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshop which must be current and maintained; a refresher is required every 3 years. Level 1 coaches and other club officials are also encouraged to have a current Safeguarding certification although this is not a stipulation of the EIHA.

All licenced officials must also sign the EIHA's CODE OF CONDUCT FOR REGISTERED COACHES & OTHER OFFICIALS

<http://eiha.co.uk/download/coaching-and-officials-code-of-conduct/>

## **11. Equal Opportunities**

Equal Opportunities are encompassed in the values of our club, our code of conduct and our procedures.

The club is open to all children, young people and adults with developmental/learning difficulties who are able to walk unaided, irrespective of race, gender, religious belief, sexual identity, ability to skate or the financial means with which to buy their own equipment.

## **12. Health and Safety**

Werewolves of London are bound by the Health and Safety Policy and Procedures of Streatham Ice Arena and the rules of the EIHA. No players are allowed onto the ice without full protective ice hockey equipment.