

WEREWOLVES OF LONDON SPECIAL ICE HOCKEY CLUB.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 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 children and young people with developmental disabilities.

The Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club recognises that there is a paucity of opportunities for children and young people 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 young people to participate in a sport they would never normally be able to try. Any child or young person with learning difficulties is welcome to 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. In turn this will build communication skills, confidence and self esteem for our members.

3. The Principles /Values that underpin the policy

The welfare of the child or young person is always the first consideration.

All children and young people , 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 and young people with developmental disabilities. We are committed to nurturing a culture that puts childrens interest first and enables them to make the most of the skills and abilities that they have to increase well being, confidence and self esteem.

4. Statement of duty to safeguard children and young people

We the Management Committee of the Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club believe that the welfare of children and young people 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 and young people who come to our clubs and that this is both a moral and a legal obligation as the Childrens 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

For the purposes of registration with the English Ice Hockey Association The Werewolves of London comes under the umbrella organisation of Streatham Youth Ice Hockey Club. The umbrella club is required to register a Child Protection Officer with the English Ice Hockey Association. The current Child protection Officer is

C/O Streatham Youth Ice Hockey Club
Streatham Ice Arena
368 Streatham High Road
Streatham
London
SW16

6. Commitment to User Involvement in the Development and Implementation of Safeguarding Policies.

Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club is 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, a questionnaire, 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 Healthcheck 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. Please see enclosed handbook which covers the following:

EIHA: Protecting Children and Young People from Abuse Policy

EIHA: Protecting Children and Young People from Abuse - Club Guidelines
EIHA: Protecting Children and Young People from Abuse - Complaints Procedure
EIHA: Protecting Children and Young People from Abuse - Suspension Policy

Appendices:

Club Child Protection Policy Statement
Parental Consent Form
Self Declaration Form for Staff and Volunteers working in ice hockey
Reference Form for coaches wanting to work in Ice Hockey
Statement of Confidentiality for Club Child Protection Officers
Child Abuse Concerns Procedures Chart
Reporting Concerns about Suspicious Behaviour Form
Useful Contacts

Recruitment.

Werewolves of London Special Ice Hockey Club do not currently employ any staff. We are run by parent volunteers and volunteer coaches. We have made an organisational decision not to employ coaches on a sessional basis but rather to ask the mainstream Ice Hockey Teams at Streatham Ice Arena for volunteer coaches who we will CRB check and if necessary put through the EIHA coach training course. One key aim of the club is to develop our own coaches from the membership. All coaches are trained, qualified and CRB checked at enhanced level through the EIHA. Recruitment to Management Committee roles are decided by election at the Annual General Meeting held in July.

Induction, training , supervision and appraisal.

All new players and parents have an initial meeting with the Club manager to discuss the special needs of the child, previous experience, use of equipment and safe and appropriate behaviour.

All coaches are trained and qualified by the EIHA and the child protection officer trained on EIHA level 1 and 2 Child Protection Workshop Training.

Complaints and Whistleblowing see EIHA guidelines

See enclosed **Code of Conduct**.

Equal Opportunities

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

The club is open to all children and young people with developmental difficulties irrespective of race, gender, religious belief, sexual identity, ability to skate or ability to afford equipment.

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 members are allowed onto the ice without full protective kit including helmet.

See also Code of Conduct for Coaches