



Oxfordshire Squash and Racketball Association (OSRA) Safeguarding Policy Statement

Introduction

Oxfordshire Squash and Racketball Association (OSRA) is committed to safeguarding juniors and vulnerable adults involved with squash in the county. OSRA follows the guidelines set down by England Squash (<https://www.englishsquash.com/about-us/governance/safe-squash>).

As part of OSRA's commitment to safeguarding it has established a Welfare Officer role on the OSRA Committee. The primary role of this officer is to ensure that all squash activities carried out on behalf of OSRA are performed within a framework of safeguarding measures that meet England Squash guidelines. Review of Safeguarding by the OSRA Committee is a standing item on the agenda of the quarterly meetings.

A secondary role is to offer advice to clubs with juniors and vulnerable adults so that they may conform to England Squash safeguarding guidelines.

County Policy Statement

OSRA is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for juniors and vulnerable adults to enjoy playing squash.

OSRA meets this commitment by:

- Appointing a Welfare Officer who is responsible for safeguarding juniors and vulnerable adults and will act as the main point of contact for parents, children and outside agencies.
- Recognising that all juniors and vulnerable adults have the right to play squash in a safe and positive environment that is free from mistreatment, bullying and abuse.
- Ensuring that all our coaches, officials and volunteers working with juniors and vulnerable adults at county managed or sponsored events, are carefully selected, hold current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates and have attended an appropriate safeguarding course.
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of mistreatment, bullying and abuse, by providing juniors, vulnerable adults, parents and guardians with the opportunity to voice any concerns they may have.
- Ensuring access to confidential information is restricted to the person responsible for juniors and vulnerable adults or the appropriate external authorities.

England Squash Safeguarding Guidelines

England Squash provide comprehensive guidelines on the measures to take to safeguard juniors and vulnerable adults. Details of these guidelines can be found online at <https://www.englishsquash.com/about-us/governance/safe-squash>.



England Squash guidelines on safeguarding include items such as:

- Reporting (i.e. incidents) procedures and forms
- Coach and volunteer vetting procedures
- Codes of conduct for coaches/volunteers, juniors, parents and referees
- Parental consent forms
- Welfare Officer role description
- Club/county policy statements
- Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) policy statement
- Use of photographic and video images.

Juniors and Vulnerable Adults playing in Adult Teams

The following recommended actions should be taken by Team Managers / Captains to protect juniors and vulnerable adults playing in adult teams:

1. Talk to the junior and parent / guardian and establish whether they have any particular concerns about joining an adult group and take action to address these concerns.
2. Recommend that a parent or guardian is in attendance for the match and provides transport to and from the venue.
3. Notify the opposing team that you are fielding a junior or vulnerable adult and ask them to respect this and to behave accordingly.
4. Avoid one-on-one situations, adult with junior, in changing rooms and in transport to and from the match.
5. Ensure that the junior uses protective eyewear when playing.

Eye Protection for Juniors

All junior players in Oxfordshire are required to always use protective eyewear on court.