

Scottish Pétanque Association



Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy

Introduction

The Scottish Pétanque Association (SPA) is committed to creating an environment where children can enjoy pétanque safely and positively.

This policy reflects our commitment to best practices in child wellbeing and protection in sport, integrating the Scottish Government National Practice Model principles from GIRFEC and the SHANARRI Wellbeing Indicators.

Our goal is to ensure every child feels safe, respected, and included while participating in the sport and is protected from harm, abuse and exploitation.

A child is recognised as someone under the age of 18.

Policy Objectives

- To safeguard children by providing clear procedures for child wellbeing and protection.
- To promote an environment where children can enjoy pétanque in a safe, fun, and supportive setting.
- To comply with Scottish legislation and best practices, including **GIRFEC** and **SHANARRI** frameworks.
- To ensure all SPA members, coaches, mentors, volunteers, and officials understand their responsibilities in protecting children.

1. Principles of Child Wellbeing and Protection

The SPA is guided by the following core principles:

1. **Child-Centred Approach**

Every decision and action should prioritise the wellbeing of the child, ensuring they are listened to and respected.

2. **GIRFEC Framework**

- We follow the Scottish Government National Practice Model **Getting It Right For Every Child** (GIRFEC) approach, which provides a consistent way to support children, recognising that each child's needs are unique.

- This framework ensures that the right help is provided at the right time, promoting the wellbeing of all children involved in pétanque.

3. SHANARRI Wellbeing Indicators

We aim to support every child to be:

- **Safe:** Protected from harm and abuse.
- **Healthy:** Supported to be physically and mentally well.
- **Achieving:** Encouraged to reach their full potential.
- **Nurtured:** Provided with a supportive and caring environment.
- **Active:** Encouraged to participate in physical activities.
- **Respected:** Listened to and treated fairly.
- **Responsible:** Supported to make appropriate decisions.
- **Included:** Involved and engaged in the pétanque community.

4. Non-Discrimination

A child, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief or sexual identity has the right to protection from harm and abuse in a safe and inclusive environment.

5. Zero Tolerance of Abuse

Any form of abuse, bullying, or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The protection and wellbeing of all children is everyone's responsibility.

SPA Officials and Coaches

- Ensure familiarity with this policy and relevant procedures.
- Undertake regular training in child protection and wellbeing.
- Promote the wellbeing and safety of children during all pétanque activities.
- Report any concerns promptly in line with SPA's reporting procedures.
- Work in partnership with the child, parents/carers and other relevant organisations.

Club Child Wellbeing Protection Officer (CWPO)

- Clubs are encouraged to appoint a Club CWPO
- Act as the first point of contact for any child wellbeing or protection concerns.
- Respond appropriately to disclosures and concerns which relate to the wellbeing and/or protection of a child, liaising with police or and/or social work as appropriate.

SPA Child Wellbeing Protection Officer (SPA CWPO)

- Lead on child wellbeing and protection in the organisation.

- Main point of contact for advice and reporting any concerns not covered at club level.
- Ensure this policy is regularly reviewed and updated in line with best practices

Volunteers and Club Members

- Follow the SPA's code of conduct and child protection guidelines.
- Support a culture of respect, inclusion, and safety.

3. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

- **Recognise** signs of abuse or harm.
- **Respond** promptly and sensitively to any concerns raised.
- **Report** concerns to the Club or SPA **Child Wellbeing and Protection Officer (CWPO)** or relevant authorities as necessary.
- **Record** all information accurately and confidentially.

All reports will be taken seriously and handled in line with SPA's confidentiality and data protection policies.

4. Safe Recruitment and Training

- **PVG Scheme Membership:** All individuals carrying out a regulated role with children must have current **PVG** (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) certification.
- **Training:** Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport certification is required by all volunteers and coaches undertaking a regulated role with children.
- All SPA and Club Officials are encouraged to complete Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport Board and Committee eLearning training.

5. Creating a Safe and Fun Environment

- Promote the wellbeing of children through **positive coaching** that encourages enjoyment, skill development, and respect.
- Implement **anti-bullying strategies** to ensure a supportive atmosphere.
- Ensure appropriate **supervision ratios** for activities.
- Create opportunities for children to express their views and provide feedback on their experiences.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or when significant changes occur in legislation or best practice guidelines.

Approved by: SPA National Executive Committee

Date: 12th February 2025
