



## **MAIDSTONE RINK HOCKEY CLUB SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

August 2023 V 1.11

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for allowing your son/daughter to join our club. We hope you and your children will look back on it as an enjoyable and positive experience.

We write to introduce to you our Child Safeguarding Officer Ruth Berry, Ruth has decades of experience as a Paediatric nurse. We wish to reassure you from the start that your children are in safe and responsible hands.

A copy of our safeguarding policy is attached, which addresses a few fundamentals and lists contact details. Please do not think having a safeguarding policy means we anticipate difficulties; far from it, we have every confidence they'll be no issues at all and that all participating children will find it a relaxed, rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Please note that Maidstone Roller Hockey Club's responsibility literally "starts and finishes at the rink door" and it is for you to decide how your children travel to and from training and matches. Any arrangements you may wish to make regarding lifts and car shares are your own private responsibility.

We would be grateful if you could complete, sign and return the declaration below, including consenting / not consenting to images of your child being taken during training and matches, which may be used on social media or general publicity. Please be assured that nothing which might be construed as embarrassing or awkward will be photographed.

Ruth is always available to contact directly with any questions you may have, if not face to face please WhatsApp and she will return a message with a suitable time to discuss your concerns or questions.



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## MRHC Parent \ Guardian Declaration

I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Legal Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_

Give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

To attend and participate in training and matches with Maidstone Rink Hockey Club

I have been provided with a copy of the Maidstone Rink Hockey Club's Safeguarding Policy Statement.

I am / am not happy for photographs to be taken of my child for use in general publicity and on social media.

I am / am not happy for my number to be added to club WhatsApp groups for information purposes.

I request the following particular circumstances are considered when my child attends training and matches.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone number (with names please)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact email addresses (with names please)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





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### **Maidstone Rink Hockey Club Safeguarding Policy Statement**

1. The purpose of this statement is to ensure that:
  - i) Any children who take part in activities organised by Maidstone Rink Hockey Club do so in a safe environment and do not come to harm in any way, and
  - ii) To provide all members of Maidstone Rink Hockey Club, whether members, coaches, committee or ancillary volunteers, with a constructive framework of overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.
2. The welfare of all children involved with Maidstone Rink Hockey Club is paramount and must be considered above all other factors present.
3. For the purposes of this policy statement, a child is defined as anyone who has not reached the age of 18 years.
4. It is also recognised any child taking part in activities organised by Maidstone Rink Hockey Club does so voluntarily, and with the expressed permission of their parent / legal guardian.
5. Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that promotes them.
6. All adult members / volunteers must be aware of and familiar with this Policy Statement and in particular:
  - i) No adult member / volunteer can at anytime supervise a child or children alone (i.e. without another adult present)
  - ii) No adult member / volunteer can at anytime require a child or children to undertake any activity which is clearly not part of the purpose of their attendance.
  - iii) Children must be of the correct age to attend training where adults are also training, this is guided by National Rink Hockey Association and the age a child can play seniors at a match / tournament. For 23-24 season this is eligible for U17 and older (school years 10+), by invitation only, from the committee.
  - iv) Children may be invited to 'play up' an age group where there are shortfalls within a team, this is by invitation only, from the committee.
  - v) Children must be provided with a separate and private area for changing clothes should the need arise.
  - vi) Regardless of where training / matches are held no alcoholic beverages will be provided to any child.
  - vii) In consideration of the following paragraphs, no adult member / volunteer will discipline, scold, chastise, or otherwise belittle any child whilst attending Maidstone Rink Hockey activities. Should any difficulties arise, they will be taken up with the relevant parent / legal guardian.

We recognise that:

The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we make.

Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young peoples welfare





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All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation have an equal right to protection of all types of harm or abuse.

Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.

Extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

We will seek to keep our children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy Maidstone Rink Hockey Club committee member for safeguarding.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practise through our policies, procedures and code of conduct.
- Providing effective management for members / volunteers through supervision and support, so they know about and follow our procedures, policies and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
- Recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practise with children and their families where deemed necessary.
- Making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Using or safeguarding and protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against volunteers appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any suggestion of bullying.
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints measures in place.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people and members / volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Building a safeguarding culture where members / volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

### **Contact Details**

Nominated child protection lead

Name – Ruth Berry

Phone / email – 07971414119 / ruthberry593@icloud.com

Deputy child protection lead(s)

Name – Cathy King

Phone / email – 07960327923 / cathymrhc@hotmail.com

[www.maidstonerinkhockey.co.uk](http://www.maidstonerinkhockey.co.uk)





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General support groups:-

We have included some general support group links below:-

If your enquiry is of an urgent nature, please consider one of the following points of contact:

Safeguarding concerns – contact the police 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency)

Integrated Children's Social Services on 0300 041 1111

Medway Integrated Children's Social Services on 01634 334466, or your Social Worker/Early Help Worker

24hr Kent Children's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing concerns: 0800 011 3474

24-hr Kent Adult Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing concerns: 0800 783 9111

Suicide prevention

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

Cancer info and support

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support/get-help/emotional-help/local-support-groups>

NHS 111 Emergency care

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/urgent-emergency-care/nhs-111/>