

# Richmond Bridge Club: Safeguarding Children - Policy Statement

---

Richmond Bridge Club (RBC) organises Bridge events at its home venue and works with the English Bridge Union (EBU), English Bridge Education and Development (EBED) and Surrey County Bridge Association (WCBA) to develop the game. The RBC seeks to promote and develop Bridge. It acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people aged up to 18 years as well as vulnerable adults, and is committed to ensuring safeguarding that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and young people are paramount in all circumstances as enshrined in the Children Act 1989. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or identity, or socioeconomic background, all children

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of bridge in a safe and child-friendly environment
- are protected from harm and abuse whilst participating in bridge or outside of the activity.

It also aims to provide volunteers with a copy of 'Juniors @ RBC Procedures' (Appendix 1) based on a risk assessment to safeguard all children and young people attending RBC.

The RBC acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. As part of our safeguarding policy the RBC will

- promote and prioritise the safety and well-being of children and young people
- value, listen to, and respect children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- make clear who the designated Lead for Safeguarding and the Safeguarding Officer is/are and their roles.
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and provide support to the individual(s) who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
- share concerns with agencies who need to know, involving parents and children appropriately.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in the RBC including honorary officers, appointees, team captains, and volunteers at events.

Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the club.

## Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- *Children Act 1989*
- *United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991*
- *Data Protection Act 1998*
- *Sexual Offences Act 2003*
- *Children Act 2004*
- *Protection of Freedoms Act 2012*

Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children including: *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)*.

## Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed annually, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board or the RBC Committee
- As a result of any other significant change or event.

The RBC Safeguarding Policy has been drawn up after consultation with the EBU and Richmond Bridge Club.

## Terminology:

A *child* is defined as anyone under the age of 18, in line with the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

The terms *child* and *young person* are used interchangeably in this document, and may also refer to vulnerable adults.

The term “parent” is used as a generic term to represent parents, carers and guardians. The term “bridge” is used to include Minibridge and all bridge-related activities.

## Policy Procedures

---

### 1. Safeguarding Children/Child Protection

Safeguarding in this document means the process of protecting children and young people up to the age of 18 from harm. Harm can include deliberate abuse, neglect (deliberate or not), bullying, exclusion and prejudiced attitudes. Child protection is part of safeguarding and is the process of protecting individual children who are identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This policy concentrates on the latter but acknowledges the principles of the former.

Safeguarding involves assessment of risk to a child/children. RBC has developed a child-friendly Welcome 'fact-sheet' based on a risk assessment to children and young people playing bridge at RBC.

## **2. Disclosure and Barring Service**

One part of risk assessment is deciding whether a Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check is required or whether other safeguarding measures put in place are sufficient. Not all staff or volunteers require a DBS check; indeed it is illegal to apply for a DBS check if the applicant's role is ineligible. (A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks Guide is available from the RBC Office) and where a DBS is not required we will follow the Code of Conduct attached in Appendix 1). A DBS check can be applied for via the EBU office. We recommend that those applying for a DBS join the DBS Update Service (this service is free for volunteers) as this will mean that the DBS is transferable between organisations and is automatically updated rendering future applications for a DBS certificate unnecessary.

RBC recognises that its members, including its volunteers may work in schools and as part of the curriculum to teach bridge. RBC advises that in such circumstances those volunteers should follow the school's policies and procedures.

RBC has a Safeguarding Officer who has responsibility for providing advice and support to other staff, volunteers and members, and ensuring that safeguarding children remains a priority at RBC. A role description is included (Appendix 2). It is also recommended that RBC appoint a Deputy Safeguarding Officer in case the Safeguarding Officer is unavailable.

The Lead for Safeguarding for the EBU is:

Name: **Richard Banbury**

Contact: **richard@ebu.co.uk**

The Safeguarding Officer for the RBC:

Name: **Nina Ruiz**

Contact: **nina@samandnina.com**

The Deputy Safeguarding Officer for the RBC:

Name: TBA

Contact:

The safeguarding officer should undergo/have undergone at least "introductory" and preferably "leading on" safeguarding training or its equivalent so as to be able to undertake their role. Other staff and volunteers may also access appropriate training or non-accredited learning as part of individual safeguarding risk management if deemed appropriate by the Safeguarding Officer.

Training can be undertaken online e.g. via the NSPCC or SAFEcic or by personal attendance e.g. at a local school or training company. The local authority in most areas provides free/low cost training for voluntary groups. Online Training might be available, via (for example) [educare.co.uk](http://educare.co.uk).

### **3. Recognising the signs and symptoms of abuse**

Staff and volunteers are required to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse.

There are 4 main areas of abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect (intentional and unintentional)

These are explained in Appendix 2

Possible signs of abuse include:

Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries or the explanation of the cause of the injury is does not seem right.

- You observe or the child discloses abuse, or describes what appears to be an abusive act.
- Someone else (child or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another child.
- Unexplained change in behaviour such as withdrawal or sudden outbursts of temper.
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or sexually explicit behaviour.
- Distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected.
- Difficulty in making friends.
- Eating disorders, depression, self-harm or suicide attempts.
- Becoming aware of a safeguarding issue

RBC recognises that there are many ways that an organisation or individual may become aware about a child or young person's safety.

For example:

- a third party or anonymous allegation is received;
- a child or young person's appearance, behaviour, play, drawing or statements cause suspicion of abuse and/or neglect;
- a child or young person reports an incident(s) of alleged abuse which occurred some time ago;
- a written report is made regarding the serious misconduct of a worker towards a child or young person;
- an incident is witnessed;
- a police charge is made.
- No safeguarding issue will be ignored or dismissed by RBC as "minor".

### **4. Acting on a safeguarding issue**

It is important that allegations are treated seriously and the EBU procedure includes recommendations to its member organisations as well as its own staff and volunteers:

Overview of actions if you have concerns about the welfare of a child:

a) Is the child in immediate danger or are they injured?

If yes - Contact the emergency services 999.

## **5. Report the concern:**

It is important that there should be no delay in contacting either the Social Services or the police if someone thinks a crime may have been committed. Any individual can do this, 24 hours/day, it does not have to be the Safeguarding Officer.

If it is not thought that a crime has been committed but there is concern for a child's welfare then the issue should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer within 24 hours as per below.

If the issue arises during an EBU event report the concerns to the EBU designated Safeguarding Officer who will contact the local Children's Social Care Services (Social Services) for advice or to make a referral in the first instance and follow up with a written report within 24 hours. If the safeguarding officer is not available the organiser or the individual raising the concern must do this.

If the issue arises at any other time or event report the concerns to the Safeguarding Officer who will contact the local Children's Social Care Services (Social Services) for advice or make a referral in the first instance and follow up with a written report within 24 hours. If the Safeguarding Officer is not available the organiser or the individual raising the concern must do this. The Safeguarding Officer may in addition contact the EBU Safeguarding Officer for advice, however, this must not delay contacting Social Services.

If there is no one else available to help, contact the police 101.

Ensure you keep a record of your concern and how you reported it (see Concern/Allegation Report Form (EBU)).

This form is to be completed by the person raising the concern. All information recorded is confidential. Please note that parents/carers should not be spoken to if the discussions may put the child at risk of harm.

## **6. Safe Recruitment**

RBC recognises that sometimes there are people who work, or seek to work with children and young people who may pose a risk to children and who may harm them. Ensuring that there is a clear process for recruiting volunteers should help reduce this risk.

## **7. Management and supervision of club members/volunteers**

Club members/ volunteers will know who the Safeguarding Officer is and how to contact them if they have a concern (see section 1).

Volunteers should be advised that they must adopt the i) **Juniors @ RBC** Process and ii) follow the Child Protection Code of Conduct (See Appendix 2).

Volunteers will be advised that they are expected to make themselves aware of the organisation's child protection/safeguarding policy. They will be provided with a copy of the policy or given electronic access to it. A record should be kept that the copy/advice has been given.

## **8. Allegations against club members and volunteers**

If an allegation of abuse (please see the definitions in Appendix 4) is made against club members or volunteers, this should be reported immediately to the Safeguarding Officer. If the allegation is about a senior committee member at the Club, then the incident may be passed to an alternative official.

In all cases the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be involved in the immediate discussion with the Safeguarding Officer or the alternative official to confirm next steps. The LADO should be made aware of the incident within one working day.

The police and/or Children Social Care Service investigation takes precedence and no internal investigation may take place until the organisation has been advised they may do so by the LADO or police. When an internal investigation is undertaken, consideration should be given to the operation of disciplinary procedures. In most circumstances the options available for the Club are:

- no further action
- immediate suspension from the Club
- notifying the WCBA (which can then ensure that other clubs are aware of the situation)

The severity of the allegation, information and evidence available can often determine the next stages taken.

The RBC Committee should agree who will hear an appeal if required.

## **9. Recording and managing confidential information**

A form for recording concerns/allegations of abuse, harm and neglect which is to be completed by the person raising the concern is included (Concern/Allegation Report Form (EBU)).

Records relating to child protection may include:

- Safe recruitment documentation such as employment and engagement applications,
- references, identity verification, records of DBS or similar statutory disclosure checks.

The safeguarding/child protection policy and any revisions, records of distribution to or receipt of the policy, records of any protection policy training offered or received.

Accident records, incident records, records of concerns/allegations of abuse, harm and neglect (including actions taken such as referrals, assessments, plans and support), correspondence related to child protection.

### **Storage of records**

Some best practice advice for when considering the storage of records:

- Information about concerns, allegations, and referrals should not be kept in one 'concern log' rather information or items relating to individuals need to be kept in separate files.
- Records of referrals to the Social Services and Police will be kept by those organisations.
- Files containing sensitive or confidential data should be locked away and access to the keys strictly controlled.

- Access to those records needs to be limited to people in named roles who either need to know about the information in those records and/or who manage the records/files.
- If records are stored electronically then password-protect those records, which only limited staff should have access to.
- Records are kept for an appropriate period from adoption of the policy.

### Confidentiality

Children and young people have a right to confidentiality unless the organisation considers they could be at risk of abuse and/or harm. The legal principle is that the “welfare of the child is paramount”. Privacy and confidentiality should be respected where possible but if doing this leaves a child at risk of harm then the child’s safety has to come first. Legally, it is perfectly acceptable to share information if someone is worried about the safety of a child but only people who need to know should be told.

## **10. Distributing and reviewing the policy**

The policy will be freely available to all members. It will be displayed on the RBC website; honorary officers and volunteer appointees will be made aware of this, its location and how to access it so that they can disseminate the information. A photocopy or electronic copy of the policy will be available from RBC on request.

A paper version of the policy will be available during all RBC events involving children, posted on the Club Noticeboard.

The policy will be reviewed annually by the RBC designated Safeguarding Officer signed by a member of the RBC Committee. In line with best practice a young person may be invited to be involved in the review.

## **11. Responsibilities of management committees**

The RBC Committee is responsible for approving the RBC policy and its implementation in the RBC. It is also responsible for approving a review of the policy or delegating this to an appropriate official.

The RBC Committee is responsible for adding new procedures as required and informing its staff and volunteers of changes, which includes advertising it on its website.

The RBC has a responsibility to monitor which staff and volunteers (not members) in their organisation have enhanced DBS checks and safeguarding training and advise those who may need either due to their work.

The RBC Committee has a responsibility to ensure the Safeguarding Officer undertakes periodic monitoring and review to ensure that safeguards are being implemented and are effective in the organisation and that risk is being managed.

## **12. Other Policies that relate to this Policy**

- a) Online Bridge and MiniBridge (Appendix 4)
- b) Photography (Appendix 5)

## **13. Appendices**

Appendix 1	Juniors @ RBC Procedures'
Appendix 2	RBC Child Protection Code of Conduct
Appendix 3	Photographic Images Consent Form
Appendix 4	Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Form
Appendix 5	RBC Safeguarding Officer – Role Description
Appendix 6	Recognising Child Abuse
Appendix 7	Online Bridge & MiniBridge (EBU)

## **Appendix 1 Juniors @ RBC Procedures**

---

[A copy of these procedures will be given to each child and their parent/guardian upon the first visit to RBC.]

## Juniors @ RBC

Welcome to Richmond Bridge Club. We hope you have a fun time learning and playing bridge. In order to ensure your safety and wellbeing we ask that you:

1. Sign your name in the Junior Register (can be found on top of the small bookcase near the Manager's Office).
2. At the end of the session you will need to sign out in the Junior Register and this will also be signed by the session Director/Teacher/Supervisor.
3. While in the club please use the 'Disabled Toilet'.
4. If you wish to buy something from the counter please ask an adult to help you or provide a signed parent/guardian consent form.
5. You may not leave the clubhouse without signing out and do not go out the side gate or walk to the car park without adult supervision (or provide a signed parent/guardian consent form).
6. Check that your parent/guardian has completed a Photographic Images Consent Form.

If you have any questions please speak to a Director/Teacher wearing a RBC Smiling Badge!!



## Appendix 2 Richmond Bridge Club Child Protection Code of Conduct for Honorary Officers and Volunteers

---

RBC recognises that its officials, teachers, directors and volunteers, involved in bridge for children and young people have a great opportunity to be a positive role model and help build an individual's confidence. Staff and volunteers are expected to:

- Receive a copy of the Code of Conduct and Sign the 'Code of Conduct for Volunteers' and submit it to the Manager or the Safeguarding Officer
- Ensure the safety of all children by providing effective supervision and proper planning of organised bridge activities. (NB: Care should be taken that non-bridge activities, e.g. as part of a training camp, might require further levels of training and safe-guarding)
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- Treat all young people fairly and ensure they feel valued and respected. Have no favourites.
- Not allow any bullying, or the use of bad language or inappropriate behaviour (by the children themselves or by adults playing in the environment).
- Appreciate the efforts of all young people and encourage sensible participation in bridge activities. Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.

- Be positive, approachable and offer praise to promote the objectives of the club at all times.
- Not let any allegations of abuse of any kind or poor practice go unchallenged or unrecorded. Incidents and accidents to be recorded in line with the procedures of the EBU. Parents will be informed and accidents or incidents of alleged abuse or poor practice to the designated Safeguarding Officer.
- Administer minor first aid (if appropriate) in the presence of others and where required refer more serious incidents for/to medical assistance. Avoid administering First Aid involving the removing of children's clothing unless in the presence of others.
- Maintain confidentiality about sensitive information.
- Respect and listen to the opinions of young people.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Be a role model, displaying consistently high standard of behaviour and appearance (disciplined/committed/time keeping), remember children learn by example.
- Refrain from smoking and the consumption of alcohol in the presence of young persons.
- Avoid taking photos, especially of individuals, without express parental permission. Any such photo should not be stored permanently on electronic devices or phones, but should be deleted after use [Photo Permission Forms to be completed]
- Not accept or give individual gifts to young people without permission from parents/guardians.
- Not add young people to their social media accounts or have their mobile telephone numbers. Communication should be business-like, via home telephone numbers or email, copying in parents where possible.
- Plan activities that involve more than one other person being present, or at least, are within sight or hearing of others where possible. This applies to such activities as one-to-one training and travelling to or from bridge events. Where possible, young people should sit in the rear seat on any car journeys.

### Emergency action and first aid

Bridge Organisers, coaches and leaders should be prepared with an action plan in the event of an emergency. This will include as a minimum:

- Access to First Aid equipment and a first aid book and/or other similar resource
- Plan for actions if no qualified first aider is available
- Emergency evacuation plan
- Telephone contact if the participant is a minor for consent and information purposes (although prior consent for minor first aid may also be gained in addition to this)
- Telephone contact to the Emergency Services



## Code of Conduct for Volunteers (EBU& RBC)

\* In my capacity as ....., I agree that I will: (*applies to volunteers/teachers*)

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all players, officials and volunteers at all times
- Treat everyone equally regardless of age, sex, ethnic origin, religion, political persuasion, sexual orientation or physical disability
- Consider the well-being and safety of players before the development of performance
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with players, based on mutual trust and respect
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part
- Promote the positive aspects of bridge (e.g., ethics and fair play)
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the English Bridge Union and the Club
- Never exert undue influence over players to obtain personal benefit or reward
- Encourage players to value their performances and not just results.

Signed .....

Date .....

Name (Block capitals)

.....

Position

.....

.....



## Appendix 3 Photographic Images Consent Form

---

Richmond Bridge Club acknowledges its duty to protect young people from inappropriate use of photographic images, and also the rights of parents and children to assert their wish for any images to be used.

Richmond Bridge Club may publish photos of players in play at the Club, and players being presented with prizes; **however** we will only publish such photos if they contain identifiable children with the prior written consent of their parents. Photos will not be stored permanently on any devices and are to be deleted once published.

Publication may mean:

- On the Club's website
- In local newspapers
- In the English Bridge Union's printed and online magazines, as well as the websites of EBU and EBED

Consent Form:

I (Name of Parent/Legal Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_ am happy for photographs to be used (in accordance with the above guidelines only) of my son/daughter

(name of Child): \_\_\_\_\_

I reserve the right, however, to object to a particular picture being used, and likewise the right of my son/daughter to raise an objection in their own right.

OR

I (Name of Parent/Legal Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_ am **not** happy for photographs to be used of my son/daughter

(name of Child): \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Appendix 4 Concern/Allegation Report Form

---

Name of person reporting the concern/allegation

..... Position .....

**If you have a concern or have received an allegation that relates to behaviour / actions towards a child or young person, please complete the following details:**

Name of child/young person .....

Address .....

.....

Date of birth.....

**If the concern or allegation relates to behaviour/actions of a person working with young people, please complete the following details:**

Name of the youth worker .....

Address of the youth worker (if known).....

.....

Working relationship between youth worker and child/young person

.....

Date(s), time(s) and location(s) of the incident(s)

.....

Nature of the concern or allegation

.....

.....

Observations made by you or to you (eg description of visible bruising, other injuries, child's emotional state etc. NB Please make a clear distinction between fact, opinion and hearsay.

.....

.....

Exactly what the child/young person said, and what you said. (Remember, do not lead the child/young person you are questioning and record actual details

.....

.....

Details of any witness(es) (Name(s), roles, contact details if possible)

.....

.....

Actions taken so far

.....  
.....  
.....

**Details of any External Agencies contacted:**

1. Name of agency (please delete as appropriate): Police / Social Services / Local Authority / English Bridge Union / Other (eg NSPCC) – other please specify

.....

2. Date & time of contact .....

3. Name and contact number of person contacted .....

.....

4. Details of advice received

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Signed:

.....

Print Name

.....

Date .....

Remember to maintain confidentiality on a **need to know** basis. Do not discuss this incident with anyone except to protect the child or young person.

# Appendix 5 Safeguarding Officer - Role Description

---

**Organisation:** Richmond Bridge Club

**Reports to:** RBC Committee

**Grade:** Voluntary Position

**Requirement:** Appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check if eligible and references. Legal background or safeguarding experience is highly desirable.

**Purpose:**

- To ensure that the **RBC** has appropriate arrangements for keeping children and young people safe.
- To promote the safety and welfare of children and young people.

**Responsibilities:**

- Ensure that all issues concerning safety and welfare of children and young people who attend **RBC** events are properly dealt with through policies, procedures and administrative systems.
- Ensure that everyone involved with **RBC** has access to the Child Safeguarding Policy and procedures and is aware of what they should do if they have concerns about a child.
- Receive, record and report information from anyone who has concerns about a child who attends **a RBC associated** event. (eg if RBC Juniors were to represent the Club at Loughborough Young Bridge Challenge, or at Junior Training weekends)
- Advise and support members and volunteers on safeguarding/child protection
- Undertake annual monitoring and review of the policy
- Assist with updating the policy in consultation with the Lead for Safeguarding
- Take the lead on dealing with information that may constitute a child protection concern or an allegation about a member of staff or volunteer. This includes assessing and clarifying the information, and taking decisions where in consultation with colleagues, the Lead for Safeguarding at EBU, Chair of the committee and statutory child protection agencies as required. Handle all information sensitively and confidentially.
- Consult with, pass on information to and receive information from statutory child protection agencies such as the local social care department and police. This includes making formal referrals to those agencies if required.
- Undertake "Duty to Refer" to the DBS if required
- Report to the Committee as required but at least once per year, on the level of risk management being achieved
- Be familiar with issues relating to safeguarding child protection and keep up to date with developments, via annual online updates.
- Attend training in issues relevant to child protection from time to time and share knowledge from that with other members of the **RBC**.

## Appendix 6 Recognising Abuse

---

**PHYSICAL ABUSE:** May involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent/carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

**EMOTIONAL ABUSE:** Is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or "making fun" of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, (including cyber-bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**SEXUAL ABUSE:** Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual online images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**NEGLECT:** Is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

*(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015)*

## Appendix 7 Online Bridge and MiniBridge (EBU)

---

Particular care is needed when providing online bridge and Minibridge activities. Parents are advised to check the controls provided by any provider of online bridge services prior to allowing children to access them.

The English Bridge Union guidance is followed by *Bridge Club Live*, which provides an Acol-based game and is the only EBU-affiliated online bridge club, whereby:

Parental permission is obtained before membership of the club is permitted to young people under 18, using telephone checks to parents/guardians to verify this.

Chat facilities are permitted only table-wide, not one-to-one. Offensive words are not permitted in messages.

All chat messages and "sticky notes" to and from junior members are logged, and the logs are sent to parents/guardians on a regular basis.

Parents are able to set limits on the length of time a young person may play online bridge or Minibridge each day.