



## **Tynedale Cricket Club Whistle Blowing Policy**

Tynedale Cricket Club (TCC) is committed to maintaining a culture where it is safe, and acceptable, for all those involved in cricket to raise concerns about unacceptable practice and misconduct.

You may be the first to recognise something is wrong but you may not feel able to express your concerns out of a belief that this would be disloyal to colleagues, or you may fear harassment, victimisation or disadvantage.

These feelings, however natural, must never result in a child continuing to be unnecessarily at risk. Remember, it is often the most vulnerable children who are targeted. These children need someone like you to safeguard their welfare. Those involved in the sport must acknowledge their individual responsibilities to bring matters of concern to the attention of the relevant people. and/or agencies. Although this can be difficult, it is particularly important where the welfare of children may be at risk.

TCC assures all involved in cricket that they will be treated fairly and that all concerns will be properly considered. In cases where the suspicions prove to be unfounded, no action will be taken against those who report their suspicions/allegations, provided they acted in good faith and without malicious intent. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 protects whistle blowers from victimisation, discipline or dismissal where they raise genuine concerns of misconduct or malpractice.

### **Reasons for whistle blowing**

Everyone has a responsibility for raising concerns about unacceptable practice or behaviour:

- To prevent the problem worsening or widening
- To protect or reduce risk to others
- To prevent becoming implicated yourself

### **What stops people from whistle blowing?**

- Starting a chain of events which spirals
- Disrupting work or training
- Fear of getting it wrong
- Fear of repercussions or damaging careers
- Fear of not being believed

### **What happens next?**

- You should be given information on the nature and progress of any enquiries

- All concerns will be treated in confidence. During the process of investigating the matter, every effort will be made to keep the identity of those raising the concern unknown, except to the minimum number of individuals practicable
- Your Club Welfare Officer, County Welfare Officer and the ECB have a responsibility to protect you from harassment or victimisation
- No action will be taken against you if the concern proves to be unfounded and was raised in good faith
- Malicious allegations may be considered a disciplinary offence.

**How do I raise a concern?**

Contact one of the Club Welfare Officers, Christine Fletcher or Steph Milburn, or the County Welfare Officer, Chris Catnach, [chris.catnach@northumberlandcricketboard.co.uk](mailto:chris.catnach@northumberlandcricketboard.co.uk) 01661 842836.

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