**Active Essex Safeguarding Policy Statement**

**Effective Date:** 09 January 2025

**Our Commitment**

Active Essex acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people engaged in sport and physical activity. We are committed to upholding best practices in accordance with statutory requirements and the **Working Together to Safeguard Children Act 2023**.

We place the wellbeing and interests of children at the heart of everything we do. Regardless of age, ability or disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, or socio-economic background, we strive to ensure all children and young people:

* Have a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable experience while participating in Active Essex events
* Are protected from harm, abuse, and neglect, both during our activities and beyond

We particularly recognise the added vulnerability of children from Black, Asian, and minoritised ethnic communities, and those who are deaf or disabled, and take additional measures to support their safeguarding needs.

**Our Policy in Action**

To embed safeguarding across every corner of our work, Active Essex will:

* Promote and prioritise children's safety and wellbeing
* Value, respect, and listen to all young people
* Establish and maintain robust safeguarding policies and procedures
* Champion best practice through staff and volunteer conduct

**Key Responsibilities and Procedures**

We will ensure that everyone involved in Active Essex understands their role in safeguarding by:

* Providing ongoing training, supervision, and support for staff and volunteers
* Responding appropriately to all safeguarding concerns, from minor disclosures to serious abuse
* Supporting individuals who raise or report concerns, ensuring their voice is heard and protected
* Maintaining secure, confidential records in line with data protection legislation
* Using safe and thorough recruitment practices to prevent the employment of unsuitable individuals
* Appointing designated safeguarding leads (DSLs), supported by deputies and board-level oversight
* Enforcing safeguarding standards for online safety
* Making safeguarding guidance accessible for children and families through leaflets, posters, and workshops
* Signposting children and parents to trusted resources
* Reinforcing awareness and understanding — adherence to safeguarding policies is mandatory, with non-compliance potentially resulting in exclusion or dismissal

**Additional Considerations for Face-to-Face Activities**

For in-person events hosted by Active Essex, we will:

* Clearly communicate venue and event provider details
* Collect consent forms and essential medical information for all participants
* Ensure accessibility for all children, including those with additional needs
* Define clear child collection and drop-off procedures to protect their safety