



Safeguarding Policy

V 1.0

EUROPEAN PICKLEBALL OPEN POWERED by APP

Antalya, Türkiye | 3–8 November 2026



**EUROPEAN
PICKLEBALL
— OPEN —
ANTALYA 2026**



POWERED BY **APP**

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1. Policy Statement

The European Pickleball Federation (EPF) is committed to providing a safe, positive, inclusive and enjoyable environment for all children and young people participating in the 2026 European Pickleball Open powered by APP.

The welfare of every child is paramount. All children and young people, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation or background, have the right to participate in pickleball free from abuse, harm, bullying, discrimination, exploitation and neglect.

The EPF recognises that safeguarding concerns can range from low-level welfare concerns and poor practice through to serious safeguarding incidents. All concerns, regardless of severity, will be taken seriously, recorded appropriately and managed in accordance with this policy.

This policy applies to:

- Junior players under the age of 18
- Parents, guardians and carers
- Coaches and team officials
- Tournament organisers
- Referees and officials
- Volunteers
- Medical personnel
- Accredited media personnel
- Spectators
- Any person acting on behalf of the EPF

This policy applies throughout:

- Competition venues and practice facilities
 - Hotels and accommodation
 - Transport arrangements
 - Social activities
 - Online communications and social media platforms
 - Live streamed and broadcast events
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2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Protect children and young people participating in the Open.
 - Promote best safeguarding practice across all participating nations.
 - Create a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment.
 - Establish clear safeguarding roles and responsibilities.
 - Ensure all concerns are reported and managed appropriately.
 - Promote a culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
 - Embed safeguarding throughout event planning and delivery.
 - Provide a framework for future standalone European Junior Championships.
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3. Safeguarding Principles

The EPF will:

- Put the welfare of children first.
- Listen to and respect children and young people.
- Take all safeguarding concerns seriously.
- Promote equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Work in partnership with parents, guardians, carers and National Federations.
- Ensure concerns are reported promptly and appropriately.
- Maintain confidentiality where appropriate.
- Comply with local legislation and safeguarding obligations.

Review safeguarding arrangements following each event.

If You See Something, Say Something — No concern is too small if it affects the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child.

4. Event Safeguarding Plan

The Open will operate under a dedicated Event Safeguarding Plan, which will:

- Identify safeguarding roles and responsibilities.
- Include venue and accommodation risk assessments.
- Establish reporting procedures.
- Include supervision and missing child procedures.
- Include photography, filming and live-streaming guidance.
- Include medical and emergency procedures.
- Include codes of conduct and participant expectations.

All accredited personnel are required to comply with the Event Safeguarding Plan.

5. Safeguarding Structure

Tournament Safeguarding Officer — Appointment

The Tournament Safeguarding Officer (TSO) will be appointed by the EPF Tournament Director in consultation with the EPF Board, no later than two months before the event.

Required Qualifications and Experience

- Hold a recognised safeguarding qualification.
- Have prior experience in a safeguarding role within sport or a comparable setting.
- Be familiar with relevant national and international child protection legislation and best practice.
- Have no unspent criminal convictions relating to offences against children.

Authority During the Event

The TSO has full authority to:

- Direct the safeguarding response to any concern or incident during the event.
- Remove an individual from duties or restrict their access to junior participants pending investigation.
- Liaise directly with Turkish police, child protection authorities or emergency services without requiring prior approval from the Tournament Director.
- Require any accredited person to cooperate with a safeguarding investigation.

In the event of a conflict between the TSO's safeguarding direction and any other operational instruction, the TSO's decision takes precedence where the welfare of a child is at risk.

Responsibilities

- Acting as the first point of contact for all safeguarding concerns.
- Providing safeguarding advice and support throughout the event.
- Recording and managing safeguarding incidents.
- Undertaking safeguarding risk assessments.
- Liaising with local authorities where necessary.
- Coordinating safeguarding responses.
- Ensuring all staff and volunteers understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

Tournament Safeguarding Officer

Name	Sheena Maclean-Bell
Email	safeguarding@epfpb.org
Location During Event	Event Main Desk

Tournament Director

Name	Fatih Dervent
Email	fatih@epfpb.org

Türkiye Emergency Services: 112

6. Roles & Responsibilities

Tournament Organisers	• Implement this policy throughout the event. • Provide safeguarding information to all participants. • Maintain incident records securely. • Conduct venue and accommodation risk assessments. • Support investigations and referrals. • Ensure safeguarding information is available at registration.
Coaches & Team Officials	• Act in the best interests of players at all times. • Supervise players appropriately throughout the event. • Maintain professional boundaries. • Report safeguarding concerns immediately to the Safeguarding Officer. • Ensure emergency and medical information is available.
Parents, Guardians & Carers	• Remain primarily responsible for their child's welfare and supervision throughout the event where the junior is an individual entrant. • Provide accurate emergency and medical information via the Parent Consent Form before the event. • Ensure their child is supervised at all times and that they know who to contact in an emergency. • Support safeguarding procedures and respect tournament codes of conduct. • Ensure their child understands how to seek support if needed.
Players	• Treat all other participants with respect. • Follow tournament rules at all times. • Report concerns to a trusted adult. • Challenge bullying and discriminatory behaviour.

7. Recruitment and Vetting

Adults working directly with junior participants should:

- Be appointed through their National Federation.
- Hold appropriate safeguarding clearances and background checks.
- Complete safeguarding training where available.
- Understand safeguarding reporting procedures.
- Adhere to this policy and all tournament codes of conduct

8. Code of Conduct

Adults Must Never:

- Engage in abusive behaviour of any kind.
- Use inappropriate, discriminatory or offensive language.
- Bully, intimidate or humiliate a child.
- Develop inappropriate personal relationships with junior participants.
- Communicate privately with junior participants via social media without oversight.
- Share hotel rooms with players unless they are the child's own parent, guardian or authorised carer.
- Consume alcohol while responsible for supervising junior participants.

Adults Should:

- Be positive role models at all times.
- Maintain professional boundaries.
- Work openly and transparently.
- Challenge poor practice when they see it.
- Promote inclusion and respect.

A full Staff & Volunteer Code of Conduct must be read and signed by all accredited adults before the event.

9. Supervision and Welfare

Responsibility for Junior Participants

The 2026 European Pickleball Open Powered by APP is an individual entry tournament, not a national team championship. The following rules apply:

- Where a junior participant enters individually, their parent or legal guardian remains solely and primarily responsible for that child's welfare, supervision and whereabouts throughout the entire event, including during competition, at the venue, in accommodation and during transport.
- Where a National Federation formally organises and supervises a junior delegation and this is confirmed in writing to the Tournament Organising Committee prior to the event the designated team manager assumes shared supervisory responsibility for those juniors during the event.
- National Federations do not automatically carry responsibility for junior players from their nation who have entered independently without forming part of a managed delegation.
- In all cases, a Parent Consent Form must be completed identifying the responsible adult and their contact details before a junior may compete.

Recommended Supervision Ratios

Age Group	Minimum Ratio
Age 10 and under	2 adults per 8 players
Age 11 and over	2 adults per 10 players

A minimum of two responsible adults should supervise junior participants wherever possible. Mixed-gender groups should, where possible, have both male and female supervisors.

Teams must ensure appropriate supervision, safe transport, appropriate accommodation, and that emergency contact details are available at all times.

10. Hotel Accommodation and Room-Sharing Protocols

Accommodation Principles

- The welfare of junior participants is the primary consideration when allocating accommodation.
- Accommodation arrangements must be communicated to parents and participants in advance.
- Accommodation venues should be risk assessed.
- Junior participants must have access to a responsible adult at all times.

Room-Sharing Arrangements

- Junior participants must not share bedrooms with unrelated adults.
- Coaches, officials and volunteers must not share bedrooms with junior participants unless they are the child's own parent, guardian or authorised carer.
- Room allocations should be age appropriate.
- Mixed-gender room sharing should only occur with parental consent and National Federation approval.
- Adults should be accommodated separately from junior participants wherever possible.

Hotel Supervision

- Appropriate curfews should be established.
- Team managers should know the whereabouts of junior participants at all times.
- Junior participants should have emergency contact information readily available.
- Welfare checks should be undertaken where teams are travelling independently.

Bedroom Access

- Adults should avoid entering a junior participant's room alone.
- If access is required, it should be transparent and, where possible, in the presence of another responsible adult.

11. Missing Child Procedure

If a child cannot be located, act immediately — do not delay.

If a child is reported missing:

- Conduct an immediate search of the venue, courts, accommodation and surrounding areas.
- Inform the Tournament Safeguarding Officer and Tournament Director immediately.
- Notify the child's parents, guardians or team officials.
- Contact Turkish Police (112) immediately if there is concern for the child's safety or they cannot be located promptly.
- Record all actions taken using the EPF Incident Report Form.

12. Photography, Filming, Live Streaming and Social Media

Consent

Written consent must be obtained from a parent or legal guardian before a junior participant may compete. Consent covers tournament participation, emergency medical treatment, photography, videography, live streaming, and use of images for promotional and educational purposes.

Photography and Filming

- The EPF will ensure all images are respectful, appropriate and do not unnecessarily identify children.
- Photography and filming are strictly prohibited in: changing rooms, toilets, medical areas, hotel bedrooms and sleeping accommodation.
- Accredited media must comply with this policy at all times.

Live Streaming

- Participants and parents will be informed of live streaming in advance.
- Coverage must focus on competition activity and remain age-appropriate and respectful.

Social Media

The following will not be tolerated:

- Cyberbullying, harassment or discrimination online.
 - Sharing inappropriate content or images of junior participants without consent.
 - Content that places a child at risk.
 - Unnecessary private communication between adults and junior participants.
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13. Anti-Bullying and Inclusion

The EPF adopts a zero-tolerance approach to:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Harassment and racism
- Sexism and homophobia
- Discrimination in any form
- Any behaviour that causes another participant to feel unsafe

All concerns will be investigated and managed appropriately. Substantiated cases will be referred to the relevant National Federation and, where necessary, local authorities.

14. Medical Emergencies

Each delegation must:

- Provide complete medical information for all players via the Parent Consent Form.
- Maintain emergency contact details and ensure they are accessible at all times.
- Ensure players have access to any required medication.

In an emergency:

- Contact emergency services immediately (112).
 - Notify the child's parents, guardians or team officials.
 - Inform the Tournament Safeguarding Officer and Tournament Director.
 - Record the incident using the EPF Incident Report Form.
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15. Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

Any safeguarding concern must be reported immediately to the Tournament Safeguarding Officer. This includes:

- Abuse or suspected abuse (physical, emotional, sexual or neglect)
- Bullying or harassment
- Poor or unsafe practice
- Low-level welfare concerns
- Online safety concerns

All concerns will be:

- Recorded in writing using the EPF Incident Report Form.
- Risk-assessed using the Traffic Light Rating (Red / Amber / Green).
- Managed appropriately by the Tournament Safeguarding Officer.
- Referred to relevant authorities where necessary

In any situation of immediate risk — contact emergency services (112) first, then notify the Tournament Safeguarding Officer.

Traffic Light Rating

RED	Immediate risk — call emergency services or Safeguarding Officer now.
AMBER	Serious concern — report to Safeguarding Officer today.
GREEN	Low-level concern — log and monitor.

16. Confidentiality

Information relating to safeguarding concerns will only be shared with those who need to know in order to protect a child or investigate a concern. All safeguarding records will be stored securely and managed in accordance with applicable data protection legislation (including GDPR).

17. Breaches of Policy

Breaches of this policy may result in:

- A formal warning.
 - Removal from tournament duties.
 - Withdrawal of accreditation.
 - Suspension from the Open.
 - Referral to a National Federation for disciplinary action.
 - Referral to local law enforcement or child protection authorities.
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18. Policy Review

This policy applies to the 2026 European Pickleball Open Powered by APP and will be reviewed following the event to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with safeguarding best practice.
