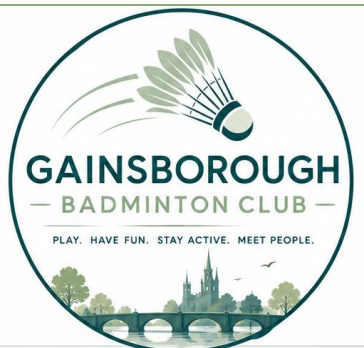




CODE OF CONDUCT

Standards of behaviour for members, visitors and Club activities

Club

Gainsborough Badminton Club

Applies to

All adult members, visitors, volunteers and committee members

Effective from

August 2026

Review

Annually, or sooner if guidance or club arrangements change

PLAY. HAVE FUN. STAY ACTIVE. MEET PEOPLE.

1. Purpose

Gainsborough Badminton Club exists to provide friendly, inclusive and enjoyable social badminton for adults aged 18 and over. This Code of Conduct sets out the behaviour expected from everyone taking part in Club activities.

Our standard is simple: be welcoming, be respectful, play fairly and help make the Club a place where people feel comfortable and safe.

2. Who this Code applies to

This Code applies to all members, visitors, guests, committee members, volunteers and coaches when taking part in or representing Gainsborough Badminton Club. It also applies to Club-related social events, competitions, WhatsApp groups, social media and other Club communications.

3. Respect and inclusion

Everyone involved with the Club is expected to:

- Treat other people with dignity, courtesy and respect.
- Welcome players of different abilities and levels of experience.
- Support an inclusive environment and avoid behaviour that excludes, humiliates or intimidates others.
- Respect personal boundaries and stop behaviour or comments when someone indicates they are uncomfortable.
- Avoid discriminatory, abusive, threatening, aggressive or degrading language or behaviour.
- Never engage in bullying, harassment, sexual harassment or unwanted sexual behaviour.
- Respect people's privacy and personal information.

4. Behaviour on court

- Play fairly and in the spirit of social badminton.
- Show respect to partners, opponents, organisers and other court users.
- Avoid deliberately dangerous, reckless or intimidating play.
- Accept reasonable decisions made by session organisers about court allocation, player rotation, games and safety.
- Help ensure players of different abilities have an enjoyable experience.
- Avoid arguments, aggressive confrontation, abusive language or deliberately disruptive behaviour.
- Take reasonable care of Club, venue and other people's equipment.

5. Safety and wellbeing

- Take reasonable responsibility for your own safety and participate within your abilities.
- Follow reasonable safety instructions from Club organisers and venue staff.
- Report hazards, accidents or serious concerns promptly.
- Do not participate in a way that creates an unreasonable risk to yourself or others.
- Do not attend or participate while so impaired by alcohol, drugs or another substance that safe participation or appropriate behaviour is affected.
- Raise safeguarding or welfare concerns with the Club Welfare & Safeguarding Officer.

Club Welfare & Safeguarding Officer
James Chase
jamesarm1981@gmail.com | (07956) 084062

6. Bullying, harassment and discrimination

The Club will not tolerate serious bullying, harassment, discriminatory abuse, threatening behaviour or sexual harassment. This includes conduct in person and through digital channels.

Concerns will be taken seriously and handled proportionately under the Club's safeguarding and conduct arrangements. Serious matters may be referred to Badminton England, the venue, police or another appropriate authority.

7. WhatsApp, social media and digital communication

Club communication channels should remain friendly, useful and appropriate. Members must not:

- Use Club channels to bully, intimidate, target or deliberately embarrass another person.
- Post discriminatory, abusive, sexually inappropriate or threatening content.
- Repeatedly contact another member after being asked to stop.
- Share private messages, personal information, photographs or contact details without an appropriate reason or permission.
- Present personal opinions as official Club statements without authorisation.
- Use Club channels for persistent spam, unrelated promotion or content that disrupts the purpose of the group.

Administrators may remove inappropriate content or temporarily restrict access to Club channels while an issue is considered.

8. Photography and video

- Respect members who have asked not to be intentionally photographed or filmed.
- Do not use images of members in an embarrassing, degrading, sexualised or inappropriate way.
- Do not publish identifiable images through official Club channels where the Club knows the person has opted out.
- Where practical, check before posting close-up or individually focused images of other members from Club activities.

9. Club property, venue and facilities

- Respect the venue, courts, changing areas and equipment.
- Follow venue rules and reasonable instructions from venue staff.
- Leave facilities in an appropriate condition after Club use.
- Report damage or faults to a Club organiser rather than attempting unsafe repairs.

10. Guests and representing the Club

Members are responsible for helping guests understand the expected standards of behaviour. When representing the Club at competitions, events or other venues, members should behave in a way that reflects positively on Gainsborough Badminton Club.

11. Raising a concern

If a member experiences or witnesses behaviour that may breach this Code, they should raise it with a Club organiser or committee member. Safeguarding or welfare concerns should be reported to James Chase, Club Welfare & Safeguarding Officer.

Members should not conduct their own investigation into serious safeguarding allegations or use group chats or social media to publicly accuse another person.

12. How breaches may be handled

The Club will aim to deal with concerns fairly, proportionately and consistently. Depending on the circumstances, action may include:

- An informal conversation or reminder about expected behaviour.
- A formal warning.
- Conditions or restrictions on participation.
- Temporary suspension from Club sessions, events or communication channels.
- Termination of membership.
- Referral to Badminton England, the venue, police or another appropriate body where necessary.

Serious matters do not have to progress through each stage before stronger action is taken. Where appropriate, the person concerned will be given an opportunity to respond before a final Club decision is made, unless immediate action is required to protect safety or welfare.

13. Membership acknowledgement

By joining or continuing to participate in Gainsborough Badminton Club, members are expected to follow this Code of Conduct and the Club's Adult Safeguarding Policy.

Suggested registration-form acknowledgement:

'I confirm that I have read and agree to follow the Gainsborough Badminton Club Code of Conduct.'

14. Review and approval

This Code will be reviewed annually, or sooner if Club arrangements, safeguarding guidance or relevant requirements change.

Date adopted	_____
Chair / Club Lead	_____
Welfare & Safeguarding Officer	James Chase
Next review date	_____