



Safeguarding policy statement

Surfing England's statement

Surfing England acknowledges that it has a duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance, complies with best practice and Sport England's requirements.

We all have a role to play in ensuring that participating in surfing is a positive and safe experience for everyone. Everyone who works or volunteers with children, young people and adults at risk has a responsibility to keep them safe.

This includes any concerns about the welfare of children or adults at risk either within Surfing or outside of Surfing, and any concern over anyone's behaviour related to the welfare of children or adults at risk including those away from the sport that involves member organisations and/or participants.

Note: The terms 'child' and 'young person' describe any person under the age of 18. References to 'parents' should be read as parents and carers inclusively.

Our Policy

Our policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at Surfing England in a safe and child centred environment.

Are protected from abuse whilst participating in Surfing, Bodyboarding, Bodysurfing, competitive coastal paddleboarding, associated adaptive surfing, or outside of the activity.

What Surfing England will do

As part of our safeguarding policy, we will:

- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Value, listen to and respect children.
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.
- Adopt safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- 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.
- Provide effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about our policies, procedures and behaviour codes and follow them confidently and competently.
- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of all incidents or concerns, both lower level and concerns of abuse.
- Provide support to the individual(s) who raise or disclose the concern.
- Record and store information securely, in line with all current data protection legislation and guidance.
- Prevent the employment or deployment of unsuitable individuals by recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Share information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their parents via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions.
- Make sure that children, young people and their parents know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Surfing England acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and accepts responsibility to take additional reasonable steps to ensure their welfare.
- Everyone involved in providing activities for children will be given access to appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- We will review the performance of our staff and volunteers on a regular basis to ensure that our policies continue to be followed and applied.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Surfing England. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the organisation.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every two years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As required by the local safeguarding partnership, UK Sport and/or home country sports councils and Sport England as a result of any other significant change or event.

Reporting procedures.

- Anyone receiving an allegation / concern / report of abuse or poor practice, should immediately contact the Lead Safeguarding Officer. The Lead Safeguarding Officer will then complete the Incident Report Form with you.
- If the Lead Safeguarding Officer is unavailable, please contact the Deputy Safeguarding Officers, who will support you and take on the responsibility of logging the incident with you.
- If in the rare instance that none of the designated safeguarding officers are available, complete the Incident Report Form accurately, legibly and in as much detail as possible and then contact the LADO, Adult/Children's services or the Police if you feel the person is in immediate danger. Advice will then be given on how and when parents/carers/guardians will be informed and ultimately become responsible for what steps to take next.

Contact details.

Our Safeguarding/Welfare Officer

Welfare Officer: Max Palmer

Welfare Director: Steve Price

Tel: 07741521022

Email: safeguarding@surfingengland.org

In a Safeguarding emergency, where a young person is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.