



Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Version A | Date written May 2025 (Date of next review: May 2026)

The Sports Trust is fully committed to the safeguarding, protection, and wellbeing of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults who engage with our services. Whether through our sports facilities, partnership clubs, school-based programmes, or children's holiday clubs, we believe that everyone has the right to enjoy a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment, free from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

We recognise our duty of care and legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all participants, and we take this responsibility seriously across every area of our work. This policy outlines how we will meet our safeguarding responsibilities in line with current legislation, statutory guidance, and best practice.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff, coaches, volunteers, and delivery partners are expected to be alert to signs of harm, respond appropriately to concerns, and act in the best interests of the child or vulnerable person at all times.

Through clear procedures, robust recruitment practices, ongoing training, and a strong safeguarding culture, The Sports Trust is dedicated to ensuring the safety and protection of those we work with across our sports and community programmes.

PRINCIPLES

- The welfare, wellbeing and safety of children and young people are our primary concern and, in all decision, making
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from harm and to be treated with dignity and respect, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity
- It is the responsibility of the child protection professionals to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, but it is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns
- All incidents of suspected poor practice and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- This policy will be promoted to all staff and volunteers and those involved with The Sports Trust

OUR POLICY:

What we'll 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, from lower-level concerns and poor practice to more serious abuse
- Provide support to the individual(s) who raise or report the concern
- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored in accordance with our GDPR Policy
- Prevent the employment or deployment of unsuitable individuals by recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Appoint a nominated safeguarding lead for children and young people, a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding
- Develop and implement an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- 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

- The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in The Sports Trust. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the organisation
- The Sports Trust also supports and embraces the National Governing Bodies of Sport Codes of Conduct.

MONITORING

The Sports Trust Board has ultimate responsibility for safeguarding and protecting children, young people and adults across our charity. The Board approves The Sports Trust Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and the Safeguarding Adults Policy, and actively supports the charity's duty to safeguard children, young people and adults. A dedicated Board Champion is appointed to ensure safeguarding is prioritised across our charity and in accordance with the UK Code for Sports Governance, and the Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Adults in Sport Framework.

The TST Safeguarding Policy has been approved by the TST Board and will be regularly monitored with a full policy review taking place annually. The following may also evoke a review of the policy:

- Any changes in legislation, government guidance or safeguarding best practice guidance
- Any changes in governance of TST
- The result of any review of policies and procedures, significant change or event.

The policy accompanies TST's linked policies and procedures:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Procedures
- Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures
- Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct
- Safer Recruitment
- Health and Safety Policy Confidentiality Policy Discipline Policy
- Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Staff Whistleblowing Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Social Media Policy.

In a safeguarding emergency, where a child is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.

TST's implementation of their Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Procedures and Guidelines will be led by the TST Health, Safety & Safeguarding Committee, a representative group from across TST, chaired by a member of the TST Board of Trustees and delivered by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.