



Safeguarding Adults Policy

2026 Edition

Incorporating Current Ann Craft Trust, CPSU and Statutory Guidance

[Version 1.0]

TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT

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1. Policy Statement and Principles

British Rowing is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults involved in rowing. We recognise the right of all adults to participate in rowing safely, free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, discrimination, harassment and poor practice.

This policy reflects current safeguarding legislation and best practice guidance including the Care Act 2014, Ann Craft Trust guidance, CPSU safeguarding principles, Working Together guidance where relevant and wider safeguarding practice across sport.

- Safeguarding adults is everyone’s responsibility.
- Adults have the right to make informed choices wherever possible.
- Empowerment and proportionality should underpin safeguarding responses.
- Safeguarding practice should be person-centred and trauma-informed.
- Concerns should be addressed promptly and proportionately.
- Safeguarding responsibilities extend to online and digital environments.
- British Rowing promotes a culture of accountability, inclusion and welfare.

2. Scope and Application

This policy applies to all British Rowing governed activity involving adults at risk, including affiliated clubs, events, training environments, competitions, travel, residential activity and online spaces.

The policy applies to staff, volunteers, coaches, officials, welfare officers, participants, contractors and any person engaged in rowing activity.

Key Definitions

Term	Definition
Adult at Risk	A person aged 18 or over who has care and support needs and may be unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect.
Safeguarding	Protecting adults’ rights to live safely and free from abuse and neglect.
Abuse	Includes physical, emotional, sexual, financial, discriminatory, organisational abuse, neglect and self-neglect.
Position of Trust	A role involving authority, responsibility or influence over another individual.

Poor Practice

Behaviour falling below expected standards that may increase safeguarding risk.

3. Safeguarding Adults Commitments

- Promote safe, inclusive and respectful environments for adults.
- Support adults to make informed choices and be involved in safeguarding decisions wherever possible.
- Recognise and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and poor practice.
- Support clubs to manage safeguarding concerns proportionately and consistently.
- Ensure safeguarding extends to online communication, social media and digital environments.
- Provide clear and accessible reporting pathways.
- Promote inclusive practice and challenge discrimination and harassment.
- Work collaboratively with statutory agencies and partner organisations.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Directors: Provide strategic oversight and accountability for safeguarding.

Director of Culture and Integrity / Lead Safeguarding Officer: Lead safeguarding management, policy and case oversight.

Club Welfare Officers: Act as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns within clubs.

Coaches and Volunteers: Maintain professional boundaries, safe practice and report concerns.

Participants: Contribute to respectful and safe environments and raise concerns where appropriate.

5. Safer Recruitment and Vetting

British Rowing and affiliated organisations will operate safer recruitment and deployment processes to minimise safeguarding risks.

- Appropriate DBS and vetting checks where required.
- Clear role descriptions and safeguarding expectations.
- Verification of references and identity.

- Safeguarding training and induction requirements.
- Professional boundaries and codes of conduct.
- Management of low-level concerns and allegations.

6. Online Safety and Digital Communication

Online environments can create safeguarding risks for adults at risk and adults including coercion, exploitation, bullying, harassment, grooming and financial abuse.

- Maintain professional and appropriate communication.
- Respond promptly to online abuse or exploitation concerns.
- Avoid inappropriate personal relationships through digital platforms.
- Gain consent before sharing personal information or imagery.
- Promote safe and respectful online behaviour.

7. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

All safeguarding concerns involving adults at risk should be reported promptly and handled sensitively, proportionately and in line with safeguarding procedures.

1. Listen carefully and remain calm.
2. Take concerns seriously and avoid judgement.
3. Explain that concerns may need to be shared to keep people safe.
4. Record concerns accurately.
5. Seek consent where appropriate and safe to do so.
6. Report concerns to the Club Welfare Officer or British Rowing safeguarding team.
7. Contact emergency services if there is immediate risk of harm.

8. Managing Allegations and Risk

British Rowing may undertake safeguarding risk assessments and implement safeguarding measures where required.

- Low-level concerns and repeated poor practice should be recorded and reviewed.

- Safeguarding action should be proportionate and person-centred.
- Interim safeguarding measures may be implemented where necessary.
- Adults at risk and adults should be supported throughout safeguarding processes.
- Decisions should consider empowerment, prevention and protection principles.

9. Safeguarding Standards for Clubs and Events

- Every club should have a designated Welfare Officer.
- Risk assessments should include safeguarding considerations.
- Clubs should adopt safeguarding policies and codes of conduct.
- Safeguarding information should be visible and accessible.
- Inclusive and respectful club cultures should be promoted.
- Concerns about discrimination, harassment or abuse should be addressed promptly.

10. Training, Education and Culture

British Rowing will promote safeguarding learning, reflective practice and continuous improvement.

- Safeguarding learning opportunities for relevant roles.
- Awareness of adult safeguarding indicators and abuse types.
- Training on professional boundaries and online safety.
- Learning from safeguarding reviews and sector developments.
- Promoting psychologically safe environments.

11. Information Sharing and Record Keeping

Safeguarding information must be handled lawfully, securely and proportionately in accordance with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

- Information sharing decisions should be necessary and proportionate.
- Records should clearly distinguish fact from opinion.
- Safeguarding records should include rationale and actions taken.

- Confidentiality must not prevent appropriate safeguarding action.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

British Rowing recognises that some adults may face additional barriers to participation, reporting concerns or accessing support.

- Promote inclusive safeguarding practice.
- Challenge discriminatory behaviour and abuse.
- Recognise intersectionality and additional vulnerabilities.
- Support accessible safeguarding reporting and communication.

13. Monitoring, Governance and Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure continued compliance with legislation, statutory guidance and sector best practice.

- Safeguarding audits and assurance processes will be undertaken.
- Learning from safeguarding reviews and cases will inform improvements.
- Governance structures will receive safeguarding updates and thematic reporting.

14. Useful Contacts and References

- British Rowing Safeguarding Team - safeguarding@britishrowing.org
- Ann Craft Trust - www.anncrafttrust.org
- NSPCC Helpline - call 0808 800 5000 or email help@NSPCC.org.uk
- Emergency Services – 999
- Local Authority Adult Safeguarding Teams

Key Guidance Referenced

- Care Act 2014
- Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Adults Guidance
- Working Together to Safeguard Children

- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- CPSU Safeguarding Guidance
- Online Safety Act 2023

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