



# Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

**2026 Edition**

**Incorporating Current NSPCC, CPSU and Working Together Guidance**

[Version 1.0]

TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT

# Contents

1.	Policy Statement and Principles	3
2.	Scope and Application	3
3.	Safeguarding Commitments	4
4.	Roles and Responsibilities	4
5.	Safer Recruitment and Vetting	4
6.	Online Safety and Digital Communication	5
7.	Reporting and Responding to Concerns	5
8.	Managing Allegations and Low-Level Concerns	6
9.	Safeguarding Standards for Clubs and Events	6
10.	Training, Education and Culture	6
11.	Information Sharing and Record Keeping	7
12.	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	7
13.	Monitoring, Governance and Review	7
14.	Useful Contacts and References	7

# 1. Policy Statement and Principles

British Rowing is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people involved in rowing. We recognise that everyone has the right to participate in rowing within a safe, positive, inclusive and child-centred environment free from abuse, neglect, bullying, exploitation, discrimination, harassment and poor practice.

This policy reflects current safeguarding legislation, statutory guidance and recognised best practice across sport, including principles contained within Working Together to Safeguard Children, the Online Safety Act, CPSU guidance, NSPCC safeguarding resources and wider sector learning.

- Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.
- Children’s welfare is paramount.
- All concerns must be taken seriously and acted upon promptly.
- British Rowing adopts a trauma-informed and child-centred approach.
- Safeguarding responsibilities extend to online and digital environments.
- Poor practice, low-level concerns and boundary breaches will be addressed proactively.
- British Rowing will work collaboratively with statutory agencies and partner organisations.

## 2. Scope and Application

This policy applies to all individuals and organisations involved in British Rowing governed activity, including affiliated clubs, events, coaches, volunteers, officials, committee members, athletes, staff, contractors, parents/carers and participants.

The policy applies to activity taking place in person, online, during travel, training camps, overnight stays, competitions, social events, communications and all environments connected to rowing.

### Key Definitions

Term	Definition
Child	Any person under the age of 18.
Adult at Risk	An adult with care and support needs who may be unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect.
Safeguarding	The process of protecting children and adults at risk from harm and promoting their welfare.

Poor Practice	Behaviour that falls below expected safeguarding standards and creates risk.
Position of Trust	A role involving authority, supervision, guidance or influence over a child.

### 3. Safeguarding Commitments

- Promote safe, inclusive and enjoyable environments for all children and young people.
- Listen to children and include their voices within safeguarding practice.
- Support clubs to recognise and respond to child-on-child abuse, bullying and harmful sexual behaviour.
- Ensure safeguarding practice reflects modern online safety risks including livestreaming, AI-generated content, grooming and cyberbullying.
- Provide clear reporting pathways and accessible safeguarding information.
- Respond proportionately, fairly and consistently to safeguarding concerns.
- Protect those who raise concerns in good faith from victimisation or retaliation.
- Embed safeguarding learning and culture throughout the organisation.

### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

**Board of Directors:** Overall accountability for safeguarding governance and oversight.

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

**Club Welfare Officers:** Primary safeguarding contact within clubs and events.

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

**Parents and Carers:** Support safeguarding standards and promote safe participation.

**Children and Young People:** Encouraged to speak up, report concerns and contribute to safer cultures.

### 5. Safer Recruitment and Vetting

British Rowing and affiliated organisations will operate safer recruitment procedures designed to prevent unsuitable individuals from working with children and young people.

- Role descriptions and safeguarding expectations.

- Enhanced DBS checks where appropriate.
- Verification of identity and references.
- Safeguarding training requirements.
- Risk assessment processes.
- Management of low-level concerns and allegations.
- Clear codes of conduct and professional boundaries.

## 6. Online Safety and Digital Communication

British Rowing recognises that safeguarding extends into online environments. Clubs and individuals must ensure that communication, media use and digital engagement remain safe, transparent and appropriate.

- Avoid private one-to-one messaging with children wherever possible.
- Use approved communication platforms with appropriate oversight.
- Gain consent before sharing images or videos of children.
- Respond promptly to online abuse, grooming, image misuse or harassment.
- Ensure livestreaming and social media activity are risk assessed.
- Promote digital literacy and online safety awareness.

## 7. Reporting and Responding to Concerns

All safeguarding concerns, disclosures, allegations, low-level concerns and instances of poor practice must be reported promptly.

1. Listen carefully and remain calm.
2. Take the concern seriously.
3. Do not promise confidentiality.
4. Record information accurately using the child's own words where possible.
5. Report concerns immediately to the Club Welfare Officer or British Rowing safeguarding team.
6. Contact emergency services where there is immediate risk of harm.

## 8. Managing Allegations and Low-Level Concerns

British Rowing will assess all safeguarding concerns proportionately and in line with safeguarding regulations and disciplinary processes.

- Repeated low-level concerns may indicate emerging safeguarding risk.
- Boundary breaches must be recorded and addressed early.
- Interim safeguarding measures may be implemented where necessary.
- Children's welfare and safety remain central to all decision making.
- Support pathways should be considered for affected individuals.

## 9. Safeguarding Standards for Clubs and Events

- Every affiliated club must appoint a trained Club Welfare Officer.
- Clubs must adopt British Rowing safeguarding policies and codes of conduct.
- Risk assessments should be completed for activities, events, travel and overnight stays.
- Photography, changing room and supervision guidance must be followed.
- Safeguarding information should be visible and accessible to all members.
- Clubs should promote inclusive cultures free from bullying, discrimination and abuse.

## 10. Training, Education and Culture

British Rowing is committed to developing a safeguarding culture where learning, accountability and continuous improvement are embedded throughout the sport.

- Mandatory safeguarding training for relevant roles.
- Regular refreshers and updates.
- Education on online safety and contextual safeguarding.
- Learning from safeguarding reviews and case management.
- Supportive and reflective safeguarding practice.

## 11. Information Sharing and Record Keeping

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

- Records should distinguish fact, opinion and professional judgement.
- Information sharing decisions should be necessary and proportionate.
- Safeguarding records should include actions taken and rationale.
- Confidentiality must never prevent action to protect a child.

## 12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

British Rowing recognises that some children may face additional barriers to participation or reporting concerns. Safeguarding practice must be inclusive, anti-discriminatory and accessible.

- Recognise additional vulnerabilities and intersectionality.
- Support disabled children and young people.
- Promote safe participation for LGBTQ+ children.
- Challenge racism, discrimination and exclusion.
- Ensure safeguarding materials are accessible and understandable.

## 13. Monitoring, Governance and Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner where there are changes to legislation, statutory guidance, organisational learning or safeguarding practice.

- Safeguarding audits and assurance processes will be undertaken.
- Learning from reviews, complaints and investigations will inform improvement.
- Safeguarding data and themes will be reported appropriately to governance structures.

## 14. Useful Contacts and References

- British Rowing Safeguarding Team - [safeguarding@britishrowing.org](mailto:safeguarding@britishrowing.org)
- NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000 or email [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk)
- Childline – 0800 1111

- Emergency Services – **999**
- CPSU – Child Protection in Sport Unit

## **Key Guidance Referenced**

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026 update)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- NSPCC Safeguarding and Online Safety Guidance
- CPSU Safeguarding in Sport Guidance
- Online Safety Act 2023
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

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