

Safeguarding Policy

SECTION ONE: POLICY STATEMENT

1.1 Introduction

AoC Sport is the lead representative organisation for further education and sixth form college sport and physical activity. The organisation was established in August 2014 following the merger of British Colleges Sport, English Colleges Football Association and the Association of Colleges Sport Policy Team.

Our vision is that every college student is encouraged, supported and has the opportunity to participate in sport and physical activity as an integrated part of their college experience.

AoC Sport's objectives are to:

- Shape: to be the single voice for college sport, driving improvement, channelling funding and shaping the further education sporting landscape.
- Service: to design and deliver high-quality opportunities and services that meet the needs of students, member colleges and external agencies.
- Champion: to promote, represent and support college sport, championing the lifelong benefits of involvement in sport and physical activity.

1.2. Principles guiding this policy statement

This policy statement is based on the commitment of AoC Sport to the following principles:

- The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is the primary concern, and all children and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- Children and vulnerable adults should be allowed to enjoy sport and other activities, without being abused or exploited.
- It is the responsibility of safeguarding experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but it is **everyone's** responsibility to report any concerns.
- All incidents of suspicious poor practice and allegations should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Confidentiality should be upheld in line with the Data Protection Act 1984 and the Human Rights Act 2000.



1.3 Policy aims

Where activities are being directly delivered by AoC Sport staff or volunteers, this policy aims to:

- Set and implement standard procedures to protect the young person first and foremost when suspected or actual abuse is reported.
- Ensure that adequate steps are taken to ensure that unsuitable people are not employed or deployed in activities or programmes.
- Create a safe and positive environment for children and vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that all staff/volunteers are supported and trained to recognise and respond appropriately to safeguarding or poor practice concerns (e.g. to follow the guidelines laid out for reporting).

Where programmes are being delivered by partner organisations, this policy aims to:

- Assist all partners and those involved in delivering sporting activities for children and vulnerable adults to understand the national standards and procedures.
- Enable children and vulnerable adults to make educated decisions about the appropriateness of facilities they use and those they employ and deploy.
- Promote good practice and actively challenge practices and behaviour that could be deemed harmful to children and vulnerable adults.

1.4 Roles and responsibilities

AoC Sport has a duty of care to safeguard from harm all children and vulnerable adults involved in any programmes and activities directly delivered by AoC Sport staff or volunteers.

The responsibilities of AoC Sport are to:

- Lead the production, monitoring and review of this Safeguarding Policy and accompanying Implementation Plan.
- Accept the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for children and vulnerable adults, safeguard their wellbeing and protect them from abuse.
- Recruit, train and supervise employees and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, and themselves against false allegations.
- Respond to any allegations appropriately and implement the appropriate disciplinary and appeals procedures.



- Ensure that within all the programmes it funds, supports or promotes, the delivery agencies have established policies and provide protection to children and vulnerable adults.
- Support all partner and delivery agencies to implement procedures which provide a duty of care for children and vulnerable adults, safeguard their wellbeing and protect them from abuse.
- Require staff, direct employees and volunteers to adopt and abide by the Safeguarding Policy and Implementation Plan.

1.5 Promotion and distribution of policy

All specialist committees and AoC Sport funded organisations will be required to sign-up to the Safeguarding Policy. Access to the policy and accompanying Implementation Plan will be available to all partners, customers, colleges, parents, participants and the general public at large.

The policy will be accessible to all employees and will also be available to volunteers, partner agencies, customers and the general public in due course via the [AoC Sport website](#).

Communication of the policy and discussion regarding the Implementation Plan will take place with partners, including relevant bodies such as the NSPCC, EFDS, Local Safeguarding managers and partnership members i.e. County Sports Partnerships, National Governing Bodies etc.

1.6 Review process and timescales

AoC Sport will review the Safeguarding Policy every three years, or whenever there is major change in legislation related to Safeguarding or the AoC Sport organisational structure. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed on a six-monthly basis.