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# AoC Sport Safeguarding Policy

## **Children and Young People**

June 2019

## 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 'every student participating regularly in sport or physical activity'. We believe that sport and physical activity are essential components of college life, providing significant advantages in terms of education, employment and health.

We will use sport and activity to...

- › provide quality educational outcomes for college students
- › boost employability skills and support the local economy
- › improve health outcomes for students, staff and wider college communities

### 1.2. Principles guiding this policy statement

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

Anyone under the age of 18 is considered a child for the purpose of safeguarding policy and procedures.

- The welfare of children is the primary concern, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- AoC Sport will seek to ensure that our activities are inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment, we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring and review.
- Children should be allowed to enjoy sport and other activities, without being abused or exploited.
- It is the responsibility of safeguarding experts to determine whether 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 child 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.
- 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 or colleges, this policy aims to:

- Assist all partners and those involved in delivering sporting activities for children to understand the national standards and procedures.
- Promote good practice and actively challenge practices and behaviour that could be deemed harmful to children.

#### **1.4 Roles and responsibilities**

AoC Sport has a duty of care to safeguard from harm all children involved in any programmes and activities directly delivered by (or in association with) 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 safeguard their wellbeing and protect them from abuse.
- A Lead Safeguarding Officer to produce and disseminate guidance and resources to support the policy and procedures.
- Recruit, train and supervise employees and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children 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 adults.
- Support all partner and delivery agencies to implement procedures which provide a duty of care for children and 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.
- Clear codes of conduct are in place for coaches, participants, officials, spectators and other relevant individuals.
- Arrangements to work effectively with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including arrangements for sharing information.

### **1.5 Promotion and distribution of policy**

All committees, advisory groups 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 public.

Communication of the policy and discussion regarding the Implementation Plan will take place with partners, including relevant bodies such as the CPSU, Activity Alliance, AoC Sport Advisory Groups and partnership Organisations.

### **1.6 Implementation**

AoC Sport are committed to meeting the CPSU 10 standards for safeguarding and protecting children

### **1.7 Review process and document control**

This Policy has been approved by the Management Team and the AoC Sport board. 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.

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Date of issue</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Comments and description of changes</b>
1.0	19 June 2019	Prepared by AoC Sport Policy Manager	