



BRITISHROWING

British Rowing Safeguarding Strategy

2020

TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT



Introduction

Safeguarding in sport has gained significant attention over the last 20 years and recent, often historic, cases of abuse and violence towards children in sport has increased the level of scrutiny. Without proper mechanisms in place, sport can provide an environment where children are vulnerable to various forms of harm. Crucially attention must be drawn to the risks associated with online communication and media. The statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, published alongside the Children Act 2004, sets out legal requirements for sport governing bodies, and the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport sets out a framework for sport governing bodies to apply in order to provide a safe sporting environment. British Rowing has always taken its role very seriously and in this document sets out its strategic approach to protect and promote the welfare of children, young adults and adults at risk, whilst also managing those who seek to undermine our sport.

Vision

By 2025 British Rowing will aim to be among the leading National Governing Bodies of sport, showcasing the highest standards in safeguarding. We will ensure that our duty of care to children, young adults and adults at risk is firmly embedded at the heart of rowing.

British Rowing and all its affiliated clubs have a responsibility to protect the rights of children, young adults and adults at risk to enjoy participating in rowing, free from all forms of abuse, exploitation and poor practice.

In order to achieve this British Rowing is committed to ongoing development and provision of policies, best practice guidance and central support in line with national legislation.

British Rowing want clubs, events, coaches, volunteers and any associated individual to feel confident in understanding their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and to encourage them to take all necessary steps to keep all rowers safe from abuse or other inappropriate behaviour.

1. Policies Procedures and Guidance

British Rowing sets out preventive measures to minimise the possibility of children, young adults and adults at risk being abused by those in a position of trust. This is supported by a culture of best practice as set out by British Rowing Codes of Ethics and Behaviours, the Codes of Conduct, Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy, and Safeguarding and Protecting Adults at Risk Policy, all of which are underpinned by Welfare Guidance and apply to all clubs and individuals who participate in, support, or facilitate rowing.



Defining Safeguarding for British Rowing

British Rowing have policies, procedures and guidance documents which have been developed with support from external stakeholders including children and young people.

Over the next 4 years our priority is to:

- ensure British Rowing provides clear support which is easy to find and access to everyone in rowing so they can understand their roles and responsibilities and implement best practice;
- continue to collaborate with our stakeholders to strengthen existing policies and remain current with best practice recommendations;
- Gather the views of children and young people in rowing on our policies and guidance to ensure it meets their needs and is fit for purpose;
- Develop a child-friendly version of key policies and procedures.

2. Organisational Ownership

Early Intervention

Safeguarding in British Rowing is strongly advocated by the Board, the staff and rowing community and with adequate support and resources to be able to carry out a comprehensive safeguarding plan.

Over the next 4 years British Rowing will:

- ensure children, young adults and adults at risk have better access to information to assist them with where to go if they need help;
- support a Welfare Officer Network made up of both Club, Event, and Regional Welfare Officers who collectively support each other to identify issues and take steps to address them early on;
- provide central support from a safely recruited, trained and resourced safeguarding team who can ensure appropriate action is taken and support is provided when concerns or disclosures are made.

3. Safeguarding Training and Communication

Guiding Best Practice

Individuals in roles that provide regular and/or significant responsibility for children and young people are required to undertake appropriate safeguarding training.

Over the next 4 years we will:



- work with the CPSU to provide and identify opportunities to develop and maintain the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to safeguard children;
- advocate robust safe recruitment of anyone who will be placed in a position of trust;
- showcase champions of best practice in rowing so we can inspire others to follow their example;
- maximise our social media and online communication tools to actively engage the rowing community in regular discourse of best practice, prompting discussion, reflection, and sharing of ideas.

4. Case Management

British Rowing has a clear case management process for handling concerns and disclosures. All reporting procedures are clearly signposted both online and in clubs.

Over the next 4 years we will:

- always prioritize the safety and well-being of all children and adults at risk;
- keep robust, confidential records of track perpetrators and ensure that incidents are managed in line with national legislation and British Rowing policy and procedures;
- share information of key findings back into the sport, to enhance collective knowledge and understanding, identify any areas of high-risk and use this learning to underpin the improvement of our policies, training and practices across our sport.

5. Monitoring and Review

British Rowing is committed to continual review of our policies and procedures, particularly in recognition of the rapidly evolving nature of digital media and online communications.

Over the next 4 years we will:

- ensure mechanisms are in place to listen to and work with children, young adults, adults at risk and our clubs, members staff and volunteers to learn from their experience, and improve our best practice guidance;
- coordinate with other sports and stakeholders to learn from their experiences and share our own;
- monitor and evaluate the outcomes, effectiveness and impact of safeguarding actions across all programmes and activities at every level in rowing;
- review all policies, procedures and guidance every 3 years or whenever there is a significant change in the British Rowing's role/structure, change in relevant legislation or guidance, or in light of learning from significant cases.

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