

SWO June Newsletter

Hello,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well.

I'll start things off with another thank you. Over the past couple of months there has been a lot of hard work and dedication to safeguarding so many clubs. We have been working with many of you on safeguarding cases, advice and guidance queries, and providing in safe and effective support in challenging situations. We are so impressed with the commitment, knowledge and care you are providing on a daily basis, and we also appreciate you contacting us to share and sense check your approaches and actions. Great work, everyone!

As always, should you have any safeguarding and/or welfare concerns or simply want to ask any questions, I am available at:

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663//adam.leathwood@soqb.org.uk

Q&A's

Athlete Coaches

A few weeks ago we worked closely with a club who had some questions about one of their athletes that has transitioned into being a coach at their club. We love to see this journey and are currently working with our Athlete Leadership Team (ALT) to develop an Athlete to Coach/Volunteer transition program. It's early stages at present, but we have had some great ideas from the ALT and can't wait to start developing this program.

The specific question about DBS checks came up and whether or not athletes who also coach need one.

DBS state that anyone coaching, leading, instructing children should have a DBS in place. A enhanced level of check would be suitable, barred lists would only apply if the coach is in [regulated activity](#).

Regulated Activity when working with Children is defined as:

Teaching, training, or instruction, care for, or supervision of children	On more than 3 days in a 30-day period, or once overnight between 2am and 6am with the opportunity for face-to-face contact with children	Department for Education statutory guidance must be considered	Under 18 – but not if the activity is in relation to the child's paid or unpaid employment and they are 16 or 17 years old
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Regulated Activity when working with Children is defined as any of the following that occurs once:

Providing health care	By or under the direction/supervision of a regulated healthcare professional
Providing personal care	Washing and dressing, eating, drinking and toileting, oral care and care of skin, hair, nails
Assistance with the day-to-day financial running of the adults own household	Managing cash, bills or shopping
Transporting an adult	Must be for health, personal or social care due to age, illness or disability

Come and try sessions

Another query we had recently was around come and try sessions and how to ensure the safety of everyone at the club during these. There are a few things you can do to ensure you are protecting your athletes and those who come to try out, see below:

- Obtain the personal details of attendees and verify them through identification documents (Name, DOB, and contact details are advised). This will ensure that the person attending is who they say they are, and if anything happens during the session that you need to report, you have their details to hand.
- Officially book them in. Have official come and try sessions and do not accept ad-hoc arrivals to ordinary sessions, for example if an athlete brings a friend to session explain that you can't have them at the session unless it is organised through the club officially.
- The person visiting should be supervised at all times by a registered and DBS checked SOGB volunteer. This way you can check in with them to see how they are getting on, but also intervene in any unwanted or unsafe behaviour occurs.

Safer recruitment webinar

On the 19th June I will be leading a safer recruitment webinar. In this session I will be covering the importance of safer recruitment and providing you with guidance on how to achieve best practice in this area.

The session will run from 18:00 – 19:00 to register for this webinar click [HERE](#)

Internal Updates

SWO Qualification Upload

If you have completed any safeguarding training recently and are yet to upload the evidence for it to your volunteer profile, you can do so [HERE](#)

All you have to do is complete the form, and provide details of any new training and/or qualification you have obtained. This form will then populate your SOGB volunteer profile with the information provided. If you have any questions about this process, please contact volunteers@sogb.org.uk

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Strategy is now in the final stages of content review. SOGB staff have provided feedback and suggestions which have now been added to the document. The next stage is consultation with members and our Board of Trustees. If you wish to have a say on the strategy and give your feedback and ideas, drop me a message at adam.leathwood@sogb.org.uk and I'll pop you on the distribution list.

Strategy

Under 18 Volunteer Guidance

We have had a number of queries about volunteers under the age of 18, questions like, should they be supervised, do we need parental consent, and do they require DBS checks. While each of those queries were responded to individually, this has prompted us to create some guidance around this for you. We are nearing the final stages of development for the Under 18's Volunteer Guidance document and will be releasing it soon. Keep an eye on your emails and on our [resources page](#) for this and new releases and updates.

External

Updates

Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Keeping your child safe in sport 2025

Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport week will be taking place 06-12 October 2025.

This year, it's all about inspiring positive parent behaviour, with an opportunity for parents to learn about ways to encourage and support their children in the best way possible.

The CPSU have a number of campaign assets planned that you will be able to use in your own organisation and sport to drive the key messages of positive parental involvement.

The following two sessions are available:

- [Tuesday 17 June 2025 at 11am](#)
- [Thursday 26 June 2025 at 11am](#)

Reporting Concerns

The CPSU has updated their reporting safeguarding concerns flowchart, and included external referral information. This update is in line with our own reporting procedures. The CPSU have provided a useful flowchart for the reporting and referral processes they expect to be in place at any sport organisation. Check it out [HERE](#)

Annual Report

The CPSU have released their annual impact report which covers their engagement with Sports Organisations, their projects, initiatives and events, as well as looking at their resources and research. To read the impact report and to find out their plans for next year, click [HERE](#)

Ann Craft Trust

Celebrating Positive Coaching

The Ann Craft Trust has recently released a blog celebrating great coaches, and highlighting how a positive role model can be so impactful in sport. The blog talks about [relationships](#), duty of care, being a first responder and empowerment. To read the blog, click [HERE](#)

10 Year Reflections

2025 marks the 10th year of the Ann Craft Trust and UK Sport's relationship and work in safeguarding adults in sport. A lot has happened in those 10 years that has shaped the sector into what it is today. To learn more about the current sector standards and to see what has happened over the last 10 years you can check out the post [HERE](#)

Policy/Procedure Snippet

SOGB Easy read Safeguarding Policy

Did you know we had an easy read safeguarding policy?

This policy was developed with athletes for athletes with help from the Athlete Leadership Team a few years ago and covers all the basics of safeguarding that are highlighted in our current safeguarding and welfare policy.

The policy is written in simplified language and utilises wigit symbols to aid ease of use. It covers all the types of abuse for both children and adults, how to raise concerns and what the possible outcomes may be.

A common theme throughout this policy is an athletes right to be protected from harm while in the care of someone else, this includes whilst at SOGB activity, events and competitions.

How do you ensure that athletes know this? Do you share details of the clubs SWO's, what they do and how to contact them? Do you regularly share relevant safety and safeguarding information with athletes in sessions? And have your athletes been signposted to this policy or to external support networks? And what would be helpful from us to ensure the above is happening?

We are currently working on some athlete safeguarding awareness resources, what do you think is important to include in these from a club perspective?

Let me know what you think at adam.leathwood@sogb.org.uk

To check out the Easy read Policy and to share it with your athletes, check out the link [HERE](#)

Resources

We haven't released any new resources for the past couple of months, however upcoming ones are the Under 18's Volunteer Guidance mentioned above, and the Standards for Deployment Policy. The Standards for Deployment Policy will detail each and every role at Special Olympics GB and the compliance standards for them. It will cover qualification requirements, safer recruitment checks and safeguarding and first aid training. The roles outside of SOGB specific ones will split by sport to make the document easier to navigate.

We have had a few queries about the Club policies and DBS compliance this month so thought it best to include the below reminders. There are lots of policies relating to safeguarding on our resources page found [HERE](#)

Club Safeguarding Policy Template
The Club Safeguarding Policy Template provides you with a pre-written safeguarding policy and with just a few additions and amendments forms a robust club policy which aligns to our organisational safeguarding and welfare policy check it out [HERE](#)

DBS/PVG

Our DBS/PVG guidance outlines which SOGB roles require a DBS/PVG and at what level, the document was recently updated and can be found [HERE](#)

Time to Listen Course

Time to Listen Course

If you are a new SWO, or if you have not yet completed the 'Time to Listen' training course, SOGB may be able to help you with funding to access the course.

Having an enhanced level of safeguarding training is vital in ensuring you are sufficiently trained and skilled to perform the role of SWO at Special Olympics.

There are plenty of online classrooms delivering the Time to Listen course, you can check these out [HERE](#)

If this training is something you're interested in completing and would like to discuss this further, please email me at adam.leathwood@sogb.org.uk

Did you know we also have a welfare inbox, if you have a query or situation that you think doesn't quite fit the bracket of safeguarding, you can email there to discuss and get advice, the email address is welfare@sogb.org.uk.

Alternatively, you can call me or email me direct.
