



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS GREAT BRITAIN**  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY STATEMENT**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Safeguarding Children Policy Statement</b>
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## **Statement of Intent**

Special Olympics Great Britain (“**SOGB**”) is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people and to the principle that ‘welfare of the child is paramount’. It is recognised that children and young people are an especially vulnerable group and it is vital that the appropriate safeguards are in place for their protection. This document should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Adults Policy Statement and Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Procedures.

As an organisation that provides sporting opportunities for children, young adults and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID) (“**SOGB Members**”), SOGB also recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect SOGB Members from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation and is committed to the wellbeing and protection of SOGB Members in line with national legislation and relevant national and local guidelines.

SOGB is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to children and maintaining a safe, open, listening and positive environment for all.

For the purposes of the Safeguarding Children Policy Statement (the “**Policy**”), a child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, as defined by the Children Act 1989 & 2004.

## **SOGB’s commitment to safeguarding children and young people includes:**

- recognising that the welfare of the child or young person is paramount;
- ensuring that the safeguarding of children and young people is of high priority within the organisation;
- ensuring all children or young people who come into contact with SOGB and its staff, coaches and volunteers have the right to protection from harm, abuse, exploitation and neglect regardless of their age, disability, race, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, sex, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, religion, faith or beliefs;
- ensuring the rights, dignity and worth of a child or young person are always respected and that safeguarding and welfare is always person-centred;
- where possible and appropriate, empowering children and young people to make choices that lead to personal growth whilst also ensuring their safety through person-centred risk management procedures;
- ensuring that the correct procedures are followed with regard to reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission;
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, families and other agencies including Police and Local Authorities/Social Services which is essential in promoting the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people and sharing information as appropriate including with the Disclosure and Barring Service, Disclosure Scotland and the Charity Commission if a serious incident report is required;

- promoting the safeguarding and welfare of SOGB Members by providing opportunities for them to take part in sport safely, and respecting and promoting their rights, health and wellbeing;
- providing, promoting and implementing appropriate procedures to safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people and protect them from abuse, with a clear line of accountability for the implementation of these procedures (abuse can fall into many categories including: physical; domestic; sexual; psychological; organisational; neglect and acts of omission);
- ensuring safe recruitment, selection and vetting practices are always followed and to continually assess the suitability of staff and volunteers;
- providing, promoting and implementing a comprehensive and mandatory safeguarding and welfare training programme for all staff, trustees, coaches and volunteers;
- ensuring all concerns, suspicions and allegations of misconduct or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;
- requiring all staff, trustees, coaches and volunteers to report safeguarding and welfare concerns, as is their responsibility and duty, and maintaining a clear approach to and procedure for the responding, reporting, recording and referring of any allegations of misconduct or abuse; and
- promoting a culture where concerns can be shared without any fear of retribution.

### **Application**

The Children Act 1989 states that anyone involved in the care of children should ‘*do what is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child’s welfare*’. This Safeguarding Children Policy Statement, therefore, applies to all staff, trustees, agency staff, subcontractors, coaches, volunteers or anyone else working on behalf of or representing SOGB.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Policy and related safeguarding procedures is:

- to provide protection for the children and young people who come into contact with SOGB and its staff, coaches, volunteers and other relevant persons;
- to provide all staff, coaches, volunteers and other relevant persons with appropriate training, up to date information and support regarding safeguarding children and young people within the context of SOGB’s work;
- to ensure all staff, coaches, volunteers and other relevant persons understand their responsibilities and to provide clear procedures to be followed in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing or be at risk of harm, or in the event that an allegation is made against a member of staff, coach, volunteer or other relevant persons; and
- to clearly identify both individual and organisational responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

### **Accountability**

Final accountability for ensuring that SOGB fulfils its child protection and safeguarding children responsibilities falls to the Board of Trustees (the “**Board of Trustees**”), and all

trustees have a duty towards the welfare and safety of SOGB's staff, coaches, volunteers, members, athletes and any other people for whom it is responsible.

However, specific safeguarding responsibility is delegated to the Lead Safeguarding (Welfare & Safety) Trustee who will be responsible for:

- ensuring that the Board of Trustees has a clear oversight of all aspects of welfare and safety and that welfare and safety is given appropriate consideration by the Board of Trustees during decision-making;
- enforcing and implementing the actions set out within the Safeguarding Children Policy Statement and procedures relating to it;
- overseeing the implementation of safe recruitment practices and safeguarding training programmes;
- ensuring a clear approach to and procedure for responding to, reporting, recording and referring any allegations of misconduct or abuse is maintained and adhered to;
- being part of the SOGB Safeguarding Incident Management Group (IMG) and having oversight and input into serious safeguarding cases;
- championing safeguarding and welfare throughout SOGB; and
- as required, but at least annually, overseeing the regular review of the Safeguarding Children Policy Statement & procedures relating to it.

It is the responsibility of all senior members of SOGB staff to ensure that the Safeguarding Children Policy Statement and related procedures are implemented. All staff, coaches, volunteers and relevant persons are responsible for ensuring that the activities they are involved in during the course of their work at SOGB are carried out in accordance with the Policy and the procedures relating to it. It is important that adaptations to policy and procedures are made in a collaborative way to ensure meaningful engagement of individuals with intellectual disabilities. Staff, coaches, volunteers and relevant persons also have a responsibility and to seek support, advice and guidance when needed.

### **Independent Investigations**

The Board of Trustees will appoint suitably qualified individuals or organisations to conduct independent investigations on its behalf as and when it is deemed necessary and/or appropriate.

### **Reporting and Policy Review**

A quarterly safeguarding and welfare report will be made available to the Board of Trustees.

To ensure continued effectiveness, the Policy will be reviewed in whole as required, but at least annually by the Board of Trustees as part of the rolling policy review schedule.

## **Reporting Concerns**

The following steps outline the procedure for reporting a safeguarding concern:

- If you are concerned about the safety or wellbeing of an individual or an individual has confided in you, inform your Club/Region Safeguarding & Welfare Officer (SWO) or the SOGB Safeguarding Team. If you believe somebody is in immediate danger, you should contact the police or emergency services on 999 or 101.
- Accurately record all details of the concern/disclosure on the SOGB Safeguarding and Welfare Concern Report form. This should include times, locations, names, details of witnesses etc. The Report a Concern Form can be found [HERE](#)
- Give/send the form to your Club/Region Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (SWO) (ensure confirmation of receipt of the form). The SWO will assess the information and decide on next steps.
- If your Club/Region SWO is unavailable, contact the SOGB Safeguarding Team on 07383 389663 during office hours. Alternatively you can email: [safeguarding@sogb.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sogb.org.uk)
- Maintain confidentiality at all times and only share the information with the Club/Region SWO and appropriate others on a need to know basis.

## **Athlete to Registered Volunteer Ratios**

Staff and Registered Volunteer ratios will be maintained that are appropriate to the situation and services as determined by an event and/or activity based risk assessment, but should never be less than 1:4 (one staff/volunteer to four athletes).

## **Related Policies and Procedures**

This statement should be read in conjunction with SOGB's:

[Accommodation Guidance Code of Conduct \(Staff/Coaches/Volunteers\)](#)

[Code of Conduct \(Athletes/Unified Partners\)](#)

[Complaints Handling Procedure](#)

[Data Protection Policy](#)

[Adverse DBS Disclosures Process](#)

[Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Statement](#)

[Disciplinary Procedures](#)

[Equality and Diversity Statement](#)

[Incident Management \(Safeguarding\) Process and Procedures](#)

[Medication Management Guidelines and Procedures](#)

[Safeguarding Adults Policy Statement](#)

[Safeguarding Adults Procedures](#)

[Safeguarding Children Procedures](#)

[Whistleblowing Policy](#)

## References

Children Act 1989 [The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Children Act 2004 [Children Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)