

Surf Life Saving Association of Wales –Safeguarding Governance

The realm of sports heavily relies on the dedication of volunteers and individuals eager to contribute, necessitating the prioritisation of the welfare and well-being of all involved parties. Embracing a people-centred approach is paramount, focusing on understanding the needs of individuals. As a National Governing Body, setting a positive example is imperative.

Safeguarding in sport refers to protecting children and young people from abuse, preventing harm, and promoting their well-being within sports organisations. Here are the key elements of a **sports safeguarding governance**:

1. Effective Safeguarding Policies and Procedures:

- Develop clear and comprehensive safeguarding policies that outline expectations, procedures, and reporting mechanisms.
- Ensure these policies cover areas such as child protection, anti-bullying, and appropriate behaviour.

2. Codes of Conduct for Sport:

- Establish codes of conduct for athletes, coaches, staff, volunteers, and parents.
- These codes should emphasise respectful behaviour, fair play, and adherence to safeguarding principles.

3. Safe Recruitment Processes:

- Implement robust recruitment procedures for staff, coaches, and volunteers.
- Conduct background checks, reference checks, and interviews where appropriate to ensure suitability.

4. Relevant Training for Staff and Volunteers:

- Provide training on safeguarding awareness, recognising signs of abuse, and responding appropriately.
- Regularly update training to stay informed about best practices.

Remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and creating a safe environment requires collaboration across the entire sports community. If you need further guidance or have specific questions, feel free to ask! safeguarding@slsawales.org.uk