

# British Octopush Association (BOA)

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### Child Protection and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

**1. Introduction** This Child Protection and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy outlines the commitment of the BOA to ensuring the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults in sport. This policy is designed to protect individuals from harm and promote a safe environment in which they can engage in sport, whether as participants, coaches, volunteers, or other roles.

**2. Scope** This policy applies to all individuals involved in sport under the jurisdiction of the BOA, including players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents and spectators.

### 3. Definitions

- **Child:** A person under the age of 18.
- **Vulnerable Adult:** A person aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age, or illness; or who is unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation.
- **Safeguarding:** Protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse, or neglect.
- **Child Protection:** Actions and procedures to prevent and respond to situations where children or vulnerable adults are at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

**4. Policy Statement** the BOA is committed to promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults in sport. We aim to provide an environment that:

- Ensures the safety and well-being of all participants.
- Prevents the abuse or neglect of children and vulnerable adults.
- Takes all concerns about the welfare of children and vulnerable adults seriously and acts appropriately.

### 5. Responsibilities

- **Governance:** The BOA will ensure that safeguarding is integrated into the strategic and operational decision-making processes at all levels.
- **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):** The DSO will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy and providing guidance on safeguarding matters.
- **Coaches and Volunteers:** All coaches, officials, and volunteers must adhere to safeguarding protocols and report any concerns immediately.

## **6. Code of Conduct\*** All individuals involved in sport must:

- Treat everyone with respect, fairness, and dignity.
- Always act in the best interest of children and vulnerable adults.
- Avoid situations that may lead to the potential for harm or abuse.
- Refrain from any inappropriate physical or emotional conduct towards participants.
- Understand and follow the reporting procedures for safeguarding concerns.

**\* The BOA Code of Conduct is available via this [link](#)**

## **7. Safe Recruitment**

- All staff & coaches involved in working with children or vulnerable adults will undergo appropriate background checks, including an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check or equivalent, where applicable.
- Should a DBS certificate highlight concern over the suitability of a member undertaking coaching duties, the DSL will put forward a recommendation to the a committee.

## **8. Training and Awareness**

- The BOA will ensure that all players, coaches, officials, and volunteers are appropriately trained in safeguarding and child protection. This training will be regularly updated and tailored to specific roles and responsibilities.

## **9. Reporting Concerns**

- Any concerns about a child or vulnerable adult's welfare should be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding officer.
- A clear reporting procedure will be followed to ensure that all concerns are investigated promptly and appropriately.
- All concerns will be treated with confidentiality, respecting the privacy of all individuals involved, except where disclosure is required to ensure safety.

## **10. Risk Management**

- The BOA will regularly assess risks associated with activities involving children and vulnerable adults, taking steps to minimize those risks.
- This includes providing safe facilities, and creating clear protocols for travel, accommodation, and competition participation.
  - **Travel Arrangements:** All participants should travel in the method arranged and risk assessed by the BOA. If a participant desires to travel in a separate manner this request must be submitted in writing to the BOA and

parents/carers are responsible for the safety of the participant until they join the BOA group at a pre-arranged point.

- **Travel Supervision:** Ensure correct adult-to-child ratios (minimum 1:8, with at least two adults present at all times).
- **Accommodation:** Will always be that of the accommodation provided by the tournament unless this is not a provided resource, or this accommodation is not assessed as suitable. In this case accommodation will be sourced and assessed on a case by case basis.
- **Rooming:** Children should share rooms with other children of the same sex and age group. Adults must not share rooms with children.
- **Changing Facilities:** Safe changing and showering arrangements – children should not share communal areas with unrelated adults. Advise children and vulnerable adults to change in cubicles not communal areas where possible.

## 11. Anti-Bullying

- The BOA is committed to creating a positive and supportive environment that promotes well-being and inclusion. Any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination will not be tolerated.
- A clear anti-bullying policy will be in place, with procedures for addressing complaints and incidents of bullying.\*
- Please see the following policies:
  - [EDI](#)
  - [Complaints, Disciplinary and Grievance](#)
  - [Code of Conduct](#)

## 12. Confidentiality

- Any personal information relating to safeguarding issues will be kept confidential. However, there are circumstances under which confidentiality may need to be breached, such as when there is a risk of harm to the individual or others.
- Information sharing will follow the guidance set out by relevant legal and safeguarding frameworks.

## 13. Allegations of Abuse

- Allegations of abuse or neglect involving children or vulnerable adults will be taken seriously and managed in line with legal and procedural requirements.
- Disciplinary action may be taken against any individual found to be involved in abusive behavior, and appropriate authorities (e.g., police, social services) will be involved where necessary.

#### **14. Review and Monitoring**

- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains up to date and effective. Feedback from stakeholders, including children, vulnerable adults, coaches, and staff, will be sought as part of the review process.
- The the BOA will ensure ongoing compliance with relevant safeguarding legislation, and all safeguarding policies will be updated accordingly.

**15. Contact Information** For any questions or concerns, the designated safeguarding officer can be contacted at:

- Name: Dave Surridge
- Email: [welfare@gbuwh.co.uk](mailto:welfare@gbuwh.co.uk)
- Phone: 07841619424

**16. Conclusion** The BOA is dedicated to ensuring a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for all participants, and will work continuously to uphold the highest standards of safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults.

*Last reviewed - 03 Oct 2025*

*To be reviewed annually*