

What safeguarding policies or procedures should a club have in place?

Sports clubs and organisations should have a safeguarding policy, with a clear procedure for dealing with poor practice concerns or risks of harm/abuse. The policy should also include who to report concerns to within an organisation. Sports clubs and organisations should not only make their policy easily accessible to parents but proactively promote the safeguarding measures the club takes.

A safeguarding policy should address as a minimum the following:

- **A named and contactable welfare officer** - responsible for the implementation of the club safeguarding policy and issues regarding the protection of children or young people.
- **Reporting Procedures** - for dealing with complaints or concerns regarding poor practice, abuse or neglect. Clear messages on what to do, when and who to contact.
- **Code of conduct/behaviour** - written standards of good practice that may include agreements about physical contact, privacy, dressing room policy, respect for teammates and opponents, first aid/health (injury, alcohol, drugs, smoking, nutrition etc), use of social media, supervision for example.
- **Parental consent** – written consent for your child to participate and emergency details form that you must return to the club.
- **Safe recruitment procedures** - for those working with young people that include:
 - A clear role description
 - Asking for references
 - Criminal records checks for relevant posts
 - Sports specific qualifications;
- **Training**- have access to appropriate safeguarding (child protection) and sport specific skills training for its staff/volunteers.

It is important for parents to remember that a well-run club will welcome questions about their activities and policies. Clubs should know they have a responsibility to have the right arrangements in place, and proactively share safeguarding information with anyone who leaves a child in their care. For more information about what parents should consider visit thecpsu.org.uk