

Welsh Fencing – Adult Safeguarding Policy Summary

Our Commitment

Welsh Fencing is committed to safeguarding adults at risk from abuse, neglect, and exploitation across all our activities and environments. We strive to create a culture of safety, inclusion, and zero tolerance for harm.

What We Believe

- Everyone has the right to live free from abuse and neglect.
 - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
 - All adults should be listened to, respected, and supported in making their own decisions.
 - Effective safeguarding balances protection with empowerment and dignity.
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Who This Applies To

- All members, volunteers, coaches, staff, and Board members.
 - All Welsh Fencing-affiliated clubs, events, competitions, camps, and trips.
 - Our partner organisations and suppliers, who are expected to uphold these principles.
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What We Will Do

Area	Our Commitments
Awareness	All personnel receive adult safeguarding training appropriate to their role.
Reporting	All concerns are taken seriously and acted upon quickly, confidentially, and proportionately.
Risk Management	Safeguarding is included in all activity planning, with a lead officer named for each event.
Person-Centred Approach	Adults are supported to make their own informed choices and to express their desired outcomes.
Record Keeping	All safeguarding concerns are recorded securely and shared only on a 'need to know' basis.
Safe Recruitment	All volunteers and staff are vetted appropriately before engaging in activities.
Legal Compliance	We follow UK safeguarding laws and guidance across all home nations.
Review & Governance	The Board reviews safeguarding performance annually and updates this policy biennially.

Key Definitions

- **Adult at Risk:** A person aged 18+ who is at risk of abuse/neglect and unable to protect themselves due to care/support needs.
- **Types of Abuse:** Physical, sexual, emotional, financial, neglect, domestic, discriminatory, organisational, modern slavery, and more.
- **Mental Capacity:** Adults are presumed to have capacity unless proven otherwise. Decisions should respect their autonomy unless there are overriding risks.

When We Must Share Information (Even Without Consent)

- Someone is at immediate risk (including children).
- A crime has been or may be committed.
- The adult lacks mental capacity to decide.
- Sharing is required by law (e.g. in Wales or Northern Ireland).
- The person causing harm is in a position of trust or care.

If You Have a Concern

1. **Do:** Listen, reassure, record, and report it to the safeguarding lead.
2. **Don't:** Promise secrecy or delay action.
3. **Contact:**
 - **WF Welfare Officer:** Julian Nash. julian.nash@fencing.cymru. 07967 389 085
 - **British Fencing Lead Safeguarding Officer** Liz Behnke Tel: Emergency 24hr safeguarding number: 07526 003030, Non Emergency - 077177 40125. Email: Safeguarding@britishfencing.com
 - **In a safeguarding emergency, where a person is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.** Otherwise your normal first point of contact will be your club's Welfare Officer. You can also get advice from British Fencing's Lead Safeguarding Officer (see details above)
 - **Live Fear Free Helpline (Wales):** 0808 8010 800
 - **Ann Craft Trust (Sport):** 0115 951 5400