



# Safeguarding Policy WISC

## Safeguarding with BIS

Sport can and does have a very powerful and positive influence on people – especially young people. Not only can it provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement; it can also develop valuable qualities such as self-esteem, leadership and teamwork. These positive effects can only take place if sport is in the right hands, namely in the hands of those who prioritise the welfare of all children and young people and vulnerable adults and adopt practices that support, protect and empower them.

BIS has a duty of care, based in law and guidance, in order to safeguard all skaters from abuse. We believe that every person has the right to feel safe and be protected from any situation or practice that could result in him or her being physically or psychologically harmed. It is essential that the people we work with do not feel threatened or abused by anything we say or do and this policy sets out the safeguards we have in place to protect them from abuse. It is also essential that they themselves are aware of the safeguards we have in place and to know where to go should they have concerns of this nature. Every person involved in ice skating has therefore a legal and moral responsibility to protect children and young people from abuse.

BIS is committed to safeguarding the well-being of the children and young people, vulnerable adults, parents, carers, coaches, staff and volunteers who are involved in the organisation. We recognise that children and young people have rights as individuals and should be valued, listened to and treated with respect. All children and vulnerable young people are at risk of abuse and we therefore aim to achieve excellent standards of safeguarding in all areas.

<https://www.iceskating.org.uk/safeguarding>

### All BIS affiliates and members will:

- Accept the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for young people and vulnerable adults, safeguard their wellbeing and protect them from harm;
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of young people and vulnerable adults
- Recognise that some young people and vulnerable adults face additional barriers to getting help because of increased vulnerabilities which could include their ethnicity, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social background or culture
- Ensure they adopt best practice to safeguard and protect young people and vulnerable adults from abuse and to reduce the likelihood of allegations being made against themselves
- Accept and abide by the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and the BIS Code of Ethics and Conduct as well as all other policies, procedures and guidance respond appropriately to any complaints about poor practice or allegations of abuse.

We are committed to recruiting staff, coaches and volunteers safely, ensuring all the necessary checks are made. We recognise and promote that all staff, committee members and coaches in paid and voluntary positions have a duty to prevent the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and report any safeguarding concerns to the relevant person. BIS will share concerns with agencies that need to know, involving parents, carers / enablers, children and vulnerable adults appropriately. This document sets out the policy, case management processes and reporting procedures for all staff, coaches or volunteers when engaged in skating activities with children and young people. Any complaint about the way that BIS has handled a particular safeguarding concern will be logged through our Complaints Policy and addressed by the relevant team.

**Widnes Ice Skating Club** acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and BIS requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all children;

As part of our safeguarding policy **Widnes Ice Skating Club** will:

- Ensure all Club coaches, helpers and officials working with young people should read and adhere to the BIS Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy. The Club will follow the guidance of the policy in the event of any concerns or allegations
- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- The Club will ensure that anyone who meets the eligibility criteria for a Disclosure Check will not be deployed until a satisfactory check has been returned
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
- The Club will obtain written contact, and medical details of all club members which will be made known to coaches, where deemed appropriate and/or necessary
- The Club will identify a person whose role it is to deal with any issues concerning Child Protection and Harassment (Club Welfare Officer) and notify this person to all members. Anyone with concerns with respect to Child Abuse or Harassment should contact that person. If that person is unavailable they can contact the BIS Lead Safeguarding Officer
- The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in **Widnes Ice Skating Club**. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the Club

## Safeguarding Roles & Responsibilities of the Club

### Club Welfare Officer (CWO)

The Club Welfare Officer is the person appointed at club level and provides the essential point of contact for welfare within the club. The CWO is the person who has responsibility for receiving and acting upon concerns reported to them within the club setting. The club Welfare Officer should be selected for their skills and knowledge, such as being able to handle safeguarding matters in an appropriate and confidential manner. They should be approachable for any concerns regarding safeguarding and be appropriately supported by other members of the club. The CWO will report concerns to the SLO and offer advice at a club level where safeguarding concerns have arisen. Along with the club committee and rink management, the Club Welfare Officer should ensure that the club is adopting and implementing the safeguarding policy. Clubs are advised to ideally have two Club Welfare Officers, with at least one not holding a coaching position or being related to a coach at the Club.

### BIS Safeguarding Lead Officer (SLO)

Every sports organisation should designate a person to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults within the sport. The role includes liaising with the DBS recruitment process, co-ordinating the dissemination of relevant safeguarding policies, procedures and resources as well as supporting Club Welfare Officers in their roles. The SLO also provides support for the BIS board, as well as managing the administration of cases of poor practice/abuse within the sport and contribution to the Case Management Panel when cases arise. This includes being the central point of contact for enquiries such as from complainants, the LADO, Children's Social Care and/or the Police. The SLO is the BIS national lead for receiving and acting upon concerns of a safeguarding nature. This person will receive concerns about:

- Unacceptable behaviour of a member of staff or volunteer towards a child
- Unacceptable behaviour towards a child by someone within a club setting
- Concerns of a serious or significant nature
- Any concerns arising outside of a club situation, such as privately owned and run ice rinks
- Any concerns outside the scope of the CWO.

Further information can be found in the Safeguarding and Protecting Young People Policy

<https://www.iceskating.org.uk/safeguarding>

Why not check out our website  
[www.wisc.uk/safeguarding](http://www.wisc.uk/safeguarding)  
for more information regarding Safeguarding.

All our policies and procedures can be found there as well as a simplified overview for children and adults.