‘We know that feeling unsafe or excluded from sport is a significant barrier to getting involved in sport and physical activity for some groups.’ Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation

What is safeguarding adults in clubs?

Safeguarding adults means protecting a person’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Safeguarding adults is a responsibility for every organisation delivering sport and physical activity. Getting this Right in your club will ensure safe access for everyone.

Clubs need to look out for the welfare of all adults and be informed enough to ensure that any safeguarding concerns about adults are properly acted upon – safeguarding adults is everybody’s responsibility. Clubs should respond and follow up any safeguarding concerns that they have about an adult.

Safeguarding adults is linked to the circumstances that people are in, rather than individual characteristics. Most of the time, adults are fine. But sometimes they may need to look out for each other. Any adult could need safeguarding at any time if their circumstances change.

You may hear or have heard the term ‘Adults at Risk’ used. This refers specifically to an adult who is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and may need help with safeguarding themselves.
Top tips for safeguarding adults:

- Have a stand-alone safeguarding adults policy and procedures. Ensure that everyone knows about it and where to go to access it
- Create a culture that means participants feel able to discuss issues and know where to go and what to do if they have a concern
- Ensure that your committee members, coaches and especially your welfare officer read the full safeguarding adults in sport guidance so that they know the basics
- Encourage all club personnel to listen to the podcast and do the online safeguarding adults workshop available through Club Matters
- Make sure key personnel know what their role is - identify who needs more in-depth training about safeguarding adults and arrange for them to do this
- Know where to go for help, locally through your safeguarding adults team and Local Safeguarding Adults Board and nationally through the Ann Craft Trust (ACT)

Top tips for dealing with an adult safeguarding issue:

- If someone is injured or at immediate risk take immediate action by seeking help, e.g. dialling 999 for the police or an ambulance
- Keep the adult involved, seeking consent wherever possible. Ensure that the adult is kept informed, and get their views about the concerns. Let them know the outcome and what will happen next.
Safeguarding Adults
The Essentials

• Speak to your welfare officer
• If your club is affiliated to a National Governing Body of sport, speak to their designated safeguarding lead and follow their procedures
• Collect available relevant facts and appropriate information
• Make a written record of the concern or incident
• If there needs to be a referral to adult social care, try to gain consent from the adult.
• If you do not have consent to make a referral, then call the adult social services team and discuss the case without giving details. They will give you advice and tell you whether they can take the referral without consent.

Where to go for further information:
To find out more information about safeguarding adults:
• Read the full Safeguarding Adults in Sport resource pack
• Listen to our Club Matters podcast
• Visit the Club Matters website
• Contact the Ann Craft Trust for general advice

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