



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

Solent Sharks Safeguarding Statement

As a member of GBWR, Team Solent Sharks has committed to implementing their Safeguarding Policy for Adults & Young People. The rest of this document is the GBWR policy which the Sharks have adopted. Furthermore, the Solent Sharks' committee recognises that we need to be even more vigilant with our safeguarding efforts due to a potentially higher number of adults and young people at risk. If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding, bullying, or the treatment of any players, staff, or volunteers, please use the hyperlinks below to contact the appropriate people.

Please hold down the control button and click the links below and these will take you to the relevant headers.

[Introduction](#)

[Safeguarding Young People](#)

[Safeguarding Adults](#)

[GBWR and RFU Safeguarding Partnership](#)

[GBWR Roles and Responsibilities](#)

[GBWR Club and Member Roles and Responsibilities](#)

[Responsibility for Safeguarding within GBWR](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[GBWR Policies](#)



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

Welcome to Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby's (GBWR) safeguarding policy. This document sets out GBWR's commitment to safeguarding young people and adults within our sport. The government document 'Working Together to Safeguard Young People 2023' is clear that safeguarding young people is the responsibility of all, including those who are employed or volunteer with young people in whatever capacity. We all share this responsibility for safeguarding and creating safe environments regardless of our involvement or role within the sport. Everyone is entitled to feel safe and protected from any form of abuse and neglect and has the right to take part in sport in a safe, positive, and enjoyable environment.

Wheelchair rugby plays a critical part in supporting young people and adults with physical disabilities to live healthy and active lifestyles. As a Paralympic sport, the individuals who play and volunteer in our sport are more at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect. The NSPCC highlights that disabled young people are at an increased risk of being abused compared with their peers who are not disabled (Jones et al., 2012; IICSA, 2022). They are also less likely to receive the protection and support they need when they have been abused.

As wheelchair rugby is played by adults, we understand that we may have adults who could be at risk of experiencing abuse or harm, and we have a duty to ensure that the welfare of all adults is ensured. All participants, regardless of age, sex, ability or disability, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, size, or sexual orientation, have the right to protection from harm.



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Young People

GBWR is committed to ensuring that all young people who participate in our activities can take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be safeguarded from harm.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people is defined within statutory guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Young People” as protecting young people from maltreatment; preventing impairment of young people’s health or development; ensuring that young people grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all young people to have the best outcomes.

It is each sports organisation’s responsibility to:

- Implement safe recruitment practices and ensure that those who are deemed to be unsuitable to work with young people are not allowed to do so. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is an important and well-known, but not sole, part of recruitment.
- Report any safeguarding concerns to GBWR.

GBWR requires clubs and their members to acknowledge their duty of care to safeguard young people from harm and follow the policies and procedures in this policy to safeguard young people from harm and act appropriately if a young person is identified as being at risk of harm.

The key principles of ‘Working Together to Safeguard Young People 2023’ are that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, and a young person-centred approach is essential.

A Young Person-Centred Approach

A young person-centred approach is fundamental to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every young person. Young people are clear about what they want from an effective safeguarding system:

- **Vigilance:** to have adults notice when things are troubling them.
- **Understanding and Action:** to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon.
- **Stability:** to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them.



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

- Respect: to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not.
- Information and Engagement: to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns, and plans.
- Explanation: to be informed of the outcome of assessments, decisions, and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response.
- Support: to be provided with support as well as a member of their family.
- Advocacy: to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views.
- Protection: to be protected against all forms of abuse and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if a refugee.

Duty of Care

The Young People Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their function and any services they contract out to others are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people. Organisations have a duty of care to their members. Paid and volunteer staff have a duty to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, how they should respond to young person protection concerns, and make a referral to the local authority Young People's Social Care, Police, Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), or other agencies if necessary. GBWR clubs have a duty of care towards their members and must adopt the GBWR safeguarding policy as a condition of club membership. All GBWR members must comply with this policy as well.



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Adults

GBWR is committed to safeguarding adults by endeavouring to ensure that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all adults safe and to implementing best safeguarding practices which uphold the rights of all adults to live free from harm and abuse, including exploitation and neglect.

The Care Act (2014) defines adult safeguarding as working with adults with care and support needs to keep them safe from abuse or neglect. It is an important part of what many public services do, and a key responsibility of local authorities. Within the Care Act, the term 'adults at risk of harm' (shortened to 'adults at risk') replaces the previous term of 'vulnerable adults.'

An adult at risk is an individual aged 18 and over who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- As a result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect

Legislation

Safeguarding of adults in England is covered by various pieces of legislation, including:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Care Act 2014
- Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2014
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK General Data Protection Regulations

This body of legislation may be amended, repealed, or added to from time to time. In addition to the above, various other pieces of legislation inevitably touch on adult safeguarding such as legislation concerning assault, sexual offences, or fraud.

The principles underpinning adult safeguarding are:



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

- Empowerment – people should be supported and encouraged to make their own decisions with informed consent
- Prevention – it is better to act before harm occurs where possible
- Proportionality – the least intrusive response that is appropriate to the risk presented should be taken
- Protection – support and representation should be given to those in the greatest need
- Partnership – local solutions should be provided by services working within their own communities. Such communities have a key role to play in prevention, detection, and reporting.
- Accountability – safeguarding should be delivered with accountability and transparency

Although all safeguarding concerns are reported to GBWR through the same route, there are some key differences in how consent is obtained from an adult to share concerns about the risk to them, as well as the statutory and external agencies that may be part of the support for concerns.



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

GBWR and RFU Safeguarding Partnership

GBWR works with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to manage any safeguarding concerns and our DBS process. To enable us to work with the RFU, we have adopted the RFU Regulation 21.

<https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/rules-and-regulations/regulations>

GBWR Roles and Responsibilities

GBWR will publicise and promote this policy and supporting guidance documents to our clubs and members. This will include producing procedures and good practice guidance and providing access to education and training opportunities. This includes:

- GBWR will provide access to appropriate advice and support through GBWR staff and the RFU Safeguarding team, ensuring that concerns relating to the safety and welfare of young people and adults are taken seriously and acted upon swiftly and appropriately (see GBWR reporting procedures).
- GBWR recognises the roles and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding young people and the responsibilities and expertise of the relevant agencies in determining whether young people have, or may have, been abused or otherwise harmed or are at risk of harm.
- GBWR is committed to complying with the statutory procedures of the Local Safeguarding agencies (previously Local Safeguarding Young People Boards (LSCBs)). GBWR will work cooperatively with the relevant statutory agencies on matters relating to safeguarding young people and where GBWR receives a report of a concern, it will refer the matter to the relevant statutory agency where appropriate.
- GBWR is committed to directly challenging conduct that is, or may be, harmful to young people and adults and when required will ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of all incidents or concerns, both lower level and concerns of abuse, and support provided to the individual(s) who raise or disclose the concern.
- GBWR is committed to preventing the employment or deployment of unsuitable individuals through our Safer Recruitment guidance by ensuring all necessary processes are followed and the correct checks are made.



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

- GBWR is committed to providing education and training opportunities for clubs and members in relation to safeguarding young people and adults.



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

GBWR Club and Member Roles and Responsibilities

GBWR clubs are required to adhere to the following:

- Adopt GBWR's Safeguarding Policy and associated guidance
- Have a named Club Welfare Officer (CWO) whose contact details are easily accessible to all club members and who has attended the required training for CWOs
- Follow GBWR's recruitment guidance by ensuring that their club is registered on GBWR's membership system and has or is working towards Club Membership. Ensure that those individuals who are identified as needing DBS checks have completed this through the RFU Game Management System.
- Ensure that the individuals required have attended appropriate safeguarding training. This includes the CWO and coaches delivering sessions on a regular basis.
- Understand and follow GBWR's reporting procedures and ensure this is communicated and available to their members
- Provide an environment that is positive, safe, engaging, and inclusive. The welfare and wellbeing of young people and adults must be paramount.
- Understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, not just the Club Welfare Officer
- Promote a culture of listening to young people and adults at risk



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

Responsibility for Safeguarding within GBWR

The responsibility for safeguarding within GBWR belongs to everyone who works with, or has responsibility for, young people and adults in our sports. Shown below are the groups within GBWR that have specific responsibility for safeguarding young people and adults in our sport.

GBWR Staff with Responsibility for Safeguarding

GBWR works in partnership with the RFU to respond to referrals and manage safeguarding and welfare cases. GBWR has a Lead Safeguarding Officer and a dedicated RFU Case Manager, and clubs and members can discuss any concerns with the Lead Safeguarding Officer or RFU Case Manager and will be offered advice and guidance on action to be taken in safeguarding and welfare issues.

Referral Management Group

GBWR uses the RFU's Referral Management Group which considers all reported safeguarding and relevant welfare concerns. The Lead Safeguarding Officer sits on this group for all cases concerning GBWR members. Where appropriate, the RMG provides guidance to the Lead Safeguarding Officer on what action should be taken, including suspensions and outcome decisions.

Clubs and Club Welfare Officers

Club Welfare Officers play a vital role in safeguarding for wheelchair rugby. They are often the first point of contact for members and parents/guardians of members who have a safeguarding concern, and they ensure that any such concerns are addressed, escalated, and reported to GBWR by following the procedures and practices in the guidance provided.

All Welfare Officers can discuss concerns, request help, or advice from the Lead Safeguarding Officer or RFU Case Manager.



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

Contact Information

Team Solent Sharks Joint Club Welfare Officers:

KRISSIE RANSOM krissie.macneil@gmail.com 07963 287209

and LAUREN WRIGHT laurenwright1902@gmail.com 07769 644705

National Governing Body (NGB)

Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby

Rugby House, Twickenham Stadium

200 Whitton Road

Twickenham

TW2 7BA

info@gbwr.org.uk

Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@gbwr.org.uk

Outside of office hours please use the following:

- If your enquiry is urgent and is in relation to a young person, then please contact the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or email help@NSPCC.org.uk for advice
- If you are under the age of 18 and need help, please contact Young Personline

Tel: 0800 1111. Website www.childline.org.uk

If you believe someone is at immediate risk of harm, then please contact the police on 999 or your local young people's or adult's [services.one](http://www.services.one) is at immediate risk of harm, then please contact the police on 999 or your local young people's or adult's services.



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

Complaints

For complaints about the service GBWR have provided to you info@gbwr.org.uk

GBWR Policies, Guidance & Training

The following resources are found in the Safeguarding section of the GBWR website.

<https://gbwr.org.uk/safeguarding>

Safeguarding Policy Adults & Young people

Safeguarding Referral Form

Safer Recruitment Guidance

GBWR Reporting Procedures

Information Sharing

Overnight Stay Guidance

Online Safety

Photography and Video guidance

DBS Case Management Process

Club Welfare Officer Guide

Eligibility Guidance for DBS Checks

Training Courses



Team Solent Sharks Safeguarding Policy

Changes

Changes to this Document must be approved by the Sharks Management Committee

Issue Number	Changes Made	Approved By	Date
V002	Adopted to be a Sharks document	SMC	6/7/23
V003	Added Sharks CWO details to App 3	SMC	23/1/24
V004	Amended in line with updated GBWR policy V005	SMC	10/11/24
V005	Updated CWO names	SMC	17/9/25
V006	Updated format and Solent Sharks specific statement	SMC	29/12/25