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CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION POLICY

The Search Surf School is committed to a moral and legal obligation to ensure the duty of care of all children and vulnerable adults 2023

Introduction

This guidance relates to all staff and volunteers acting for and on behalf of The Search Surf School.

The Search Surf School is not an investigative or intervention agency for child protection, but some staff are in regular contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults, therefore they are able to observe outward signs of abuse and can and should alert others when such signs are observed.

All children and vulnerable adults deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential. All children and vulnerable adults have the right to be protected, to have the opportunity to participate and enjoy any activity, and to be treated with dignity and respect.

All sporting organisations that make provision for children and vulnerable adults must ensure:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All staff (paid/unpaid) working in sport have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.

Working cohesively with the national governing body for surfing, Surfing England, and in accordance with other agencies, The Search Surf School is committed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. We are committed to dealing with children and vulnerable adults and their details within the relevant legislation pertaining to data, but we will share information when appropriate to ensure the safety of our children and vulnerable adults.

Scope

This safeguarding policy and associated procedures apply to all individuals involved in The Search Surf School including participants, volunteers and to all concerns about the safety of children and vulnerable adults whilst taking part in our organisation, its activities and in the wider community.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of The Search Surf School to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and to ensure that everyone involved in The Search Surf School is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult within the organisation.

Policy Statement

The Search Surf School:

- believes everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.
- is committed to the six principles of safeguarding adults which includes: empowerment, protection, prevention, proportionality, partnership, and accountability.
- is committed to Safeguarding Adults in line with national legislation and relevant local guidelines by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all adults safe by creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.
- recognises that health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. The Search Surf School recognises that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help.
- accepts that we are required to fulfil our duty of care, which means that we must do everything that can be reasonably expected of us to help safeguard and protect people from harm, and to act when we suspect that someone is being harmed or is at risk of harm.
- is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to adults which necessitates: the recognition of adults who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

Implementation

- **The Search Surf School** staff and volunteers are DBS checked.
- Staff have attended safeguarding adults training.
- All activities include an assessment of, and risk to, the safety of all adults from abuse and neglect and designates a person who will be in attendance as a safeguarding lead for that event.
- All staff follow a code of conduct when working with adults.
- All staff are aware of their role and responsibility and duty to report to the DSL any safeguarding adult concerns.

- This policy is made available on our website.

Legislation

In its wider context, safeguarding adults applies to everyone over the age of 18 and is about:

- protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse and neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

The practices and procedures within this policy are based on the relevant legislation and government guidance.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Although everyone has a role to play in ensuring that children are safe, The Search Surf School designated individual has specific responsibility for implementing the policy and acts as the point of contact to receive information and advice from Surfing England. Michael Paterson is the Child Protection and Welfare Officer that will deal with aspects of this. Michael Paterson is someone with relevant knowledge and experience and is perceived as being approachable and having a child-focused approach.

The DSL's general terms of reference include:

- Maintaining up to date policies and procedures compatible with Surfing England.
- Ensuring that relevant staff and/or volunteers are aware of and follow the procedures.
- Advising the management committee on child protection issues.
- Maintaining contact details for local Children's Social Care Services and Police.

If there is a concern, the designated person would:

- Be the first point of contact for any concerns or allegations, from children or vulnerable adults, ensuring that confidentiality is maintained in all cases.
- Decide on the appropriate action to be taken, in line with the organisations procedures and in conjunction with the person in charge.
- Keep Surfing England informed as necessary.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to. They will be responsible for the monitoring and recording of any safeguarding concerns and for ensuring that all concerns are shared with the appropriate authorities. It is not the role of the DSL to investigate, only to gather and share information as appropriate.

The DSL can be contacted on 07930975665

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should:

- **Speak** with the adult concerned.
- **Determine the wishes of the adult concerned** to ensure the process is person led and outcome focused.
- **Seek** external guidance and advice as appropriate (this could include the NGB, Centre Manager, Adults Safeguarding Team, Active Partnership etc).
- **Offer support and information** for the adult concerned to make informed choices.
- **Put measures in place** to keep the adult safe during the activity (if appropriate).
- **Ask for consent** to report the concern to statutory agencies if appropriate.
- **Keep the adult informed and involved** throughout the process.

Raising and Managing a Concern

- Any safeguarding concerns can be reported via 07930975665, or volunteer who will refer directly to the DSL.
- Any concern that an adult is not safe is taken seriously, responded to promptly, and followed up.
- The DSL will speak to the adult about the issue wherever possible, noting any views that the adult may have regarding how they wish the matter to be dealt and keeping them informed throughout the process.
- The DSL may seek advice from external sources such as the local Safeguarding Adults Team, the Local Active Partnership, NGB or police.
- The DSL will only share information with the people who need to know – such as the Safeguarding Adults Team, police or local Active Partnership. Any referrals or passing on of information will be done with the consent of the adult wherever possible. If consent is withheld, but information is still passed on, the DSO will clearly document this and the reasons why. They will also inform the adult of this action wherever possible.
- The DSL will make a written record of the concern and store it safely in line with Data Protection requirements.

Note:

- If someone is injured or at immediate risk, immediate action should be taken. Seek help by dialling 999 for police or ambulance.
- If someone does not give consent, you can still seek advice as to what you should do from either the police, Adults Safeguarding Team, NGB or Active Partnership etc, whilst keeping the name anonymous.

Whistleblowing

We strive to encourage sport and activity organisations to be fit of purpose and have and promote good safeguarding adults practice. To show that your business is committed to this, it is important to include the procedure should someone wish to raise a safeguarding concern about you.

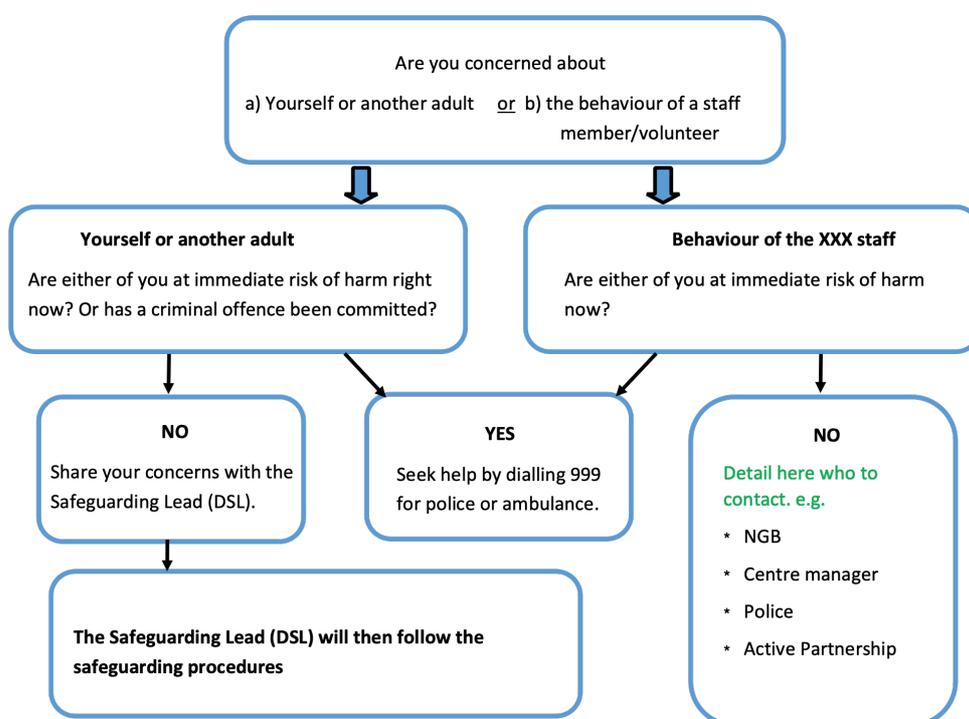
If the Safeguarding Lead or staff member is implicated or you think has a conflict of interest, then contact Surfing England.

Recording and Information Sharing

Sharing Information— We work to the Seven Golden Rules

1. GDPR is **not a barrier** to sharing information.
2. Be **open** and **honest**.
3. **Seek advice**, if in doubt
4. **Share with consent** where appropriate.
5. Consider **safety** and **wellbeing**.
6. **Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely** and **secure**.
7. Keep a **record** of your **decision** and **reasons** for sharing.

Example flow chart of reporting a concern



Sources of Information and Support

Men's Advice Line

For male domestic abuse survivors Tel: 0808 801 0327

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline

Tel: 0800 999 5428

National 24Hour Freephone Domestic Abuse Helpline

Tel: 0808 2000 247

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/Contact-us

Women's Aid Federation of England and Wales

Women's Aid is a national domestic violence charity. It also runs a domestic violence online help service.

www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support

Coach Code of Ethics and Conduct

Sports coaching, alongside other staff and volunteers, help the development of individuals through improving their performance.

This is achieved by:

- 1) Identifying and meeting the needs of the individuals
- 2) Improving performance through a progressing programme of safe, guided practice, measured performance and/or competition.
- 3) Creating an environment in which individuals are motivated to maintain participation and improve performance.

Coaches should comply with the principles of good ethical practice as listed below:

1. All The Search Surf School staff and volunteers working with young people under the age of 18 and/or vulnerable adults must have read and understood this policy.
2. All coaches, staff and volunteers must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of their sport.
3. Coaches, staff and volunteers must place the well-being and safety of the performer above the development of performance. They should follow guidelines laid down by the Surfing England and hold appropriate insurance cover.
4. Coaches, staff and volunteers must develop an appropriate working relationship with performers based on mutual trust and respect. Coaches, staff and volunteers must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
5. Coaches, staff and volunteers must encourage and guide performers to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
6. Coaches, staff and volunteers should hold up to date and nationally recognised governing body coaching qualifications.
7. Coaches, staff and volunteers must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
8. Coaches, staff and volunteers should, at the outset, clarify with performers (and where appropriate their parents) exactly what is expected of them and what performers are entitled to expect from the coaches, staff and volunteers.
9. Coaches, staff and volunteers should co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapist, psychologists) in the best interests of the performer.
10. Coaches, staff and volunteers should always promote the positive aspects of their sport (e.g. fair play, correct etiquette) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
11. Coaches, staff and volunteers must consistently display high standards of behaviour and Appearance.

Date: 24/02/2023

Signed: *Michael Paterson*