

	POLICY	Document Number: SGPo03
	SAFEGUARDING ADULTS POLICY	Version number: 6 Updated: February 2025 Next Review Date: February 2026

v.	Latest Amendment Details	Authorised by
6	Policy includes age of an adult and references other YST policies and procedures.	Board of Trustees (through NGR – 12 February 2025)

Foreword

At the Youth Sport Trust (YST) we have a proud track record of delivering major events for thousands of children and young people every year and we are very clear of our safeguarding responsibilities for children and young people. As an organisation we are also aware that we have a crucial role in safeguarding adults and YST is committed to Safeguarding Adults in line with national legislation and relevant national and local guidelines.

We are now actively promoting this to our own employees, workers, volunteers and trustees and all our partners with whom we work to ensure a mutual understanding of the YST standards and expectations. Like our Safeguarding Policy for working with children and young people our Safeguarding Adults Policy puts the well-being of all adults as our priority, ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all adults safe.

YST is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to adults which necessitates: the recognition of adults who may be at risk of abuse and the circumstances which may lead to that increased risk; knowing how adult abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

This extends to recognising and reporting harm experienced anywhere, including within our activities, within other organised community or voluntary activities, in the community, in the person’s own home and in any care setting.

YST is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of all adults to live a life free from harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

This policy document includes recent statutory guidance for all organisations providing services to adults at risk. Adopting and implementing this policy is a key requirement for the YST.



Ali Oliver
Chief Executive, Youth Sport Trust

Youth Sport Trust

Youth Sport Trust (YST) is an independent charity devoted to changing young people's lives through sport. We are passionate about helping all young people unlock their full potential through high quality, inclusive and innovative physical education and sport opportunities. For nearly 30 years we have developed a unique way of maximising the power of sport to grow young people, schools and communities through the development of qualities such as creativity, aspiration, resilience and empathy.

We place young people at the very centre of our approach and aim to pioneer innovative ways to engage and motivate today's young people to participate in sport, and for them to realise the positive impact it can have on their lives.

Through the power of sport, we focus on the following six key tactics that underpin everything we do:

- 1. Equip educators** to rebuild wellbeing and **level up life chances** of *young people* most affected by Covid-19, and those suffering from the effect of inequalities.
- 2. Empower young people** by unleashing a *nationwide community of young leaders*, who harness the positive power of play and sport to improve wellbeing, **build friendships, and foster understanding**.
- 3. Unite a movement of organisations** to *reclaim play and sport* at the heart of every school, and make it **fun for everyone**.
- 4. Mobilise influencers in all areas of public life** to make the *decline of physical activity levels and human connection in a digital age* matters of national concern.
- Help **families** understand and champion their children's physical literacy and its importance to a healthy and **happy childhood**.
- 6. Change from within** by **increasing our impact** on, connection with, and *relevance to a changing world*.

YST are aware that there has been a steady increase in the number of adults participating in our events and also being deployed as volunteers (this includes events organised and led by YST as well as events that YST endorse). As a result of this increase it is essential that we recognise our Duty of Care to safeguard both adults and children and also are aware of the different legislation in this area supporting an adult who may be at risk of harm.

For more information on the Youth Sport Trust and the range of programmes we deliver visit our website on www.youthsporttrust.org

Policy Statement

“Every child and adult who participates in sport has the right to feel secure and be safe whilst experiencing a spirit of adventure, fun, excitement and a sense of belonging.”

The Youth Sport Trust 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. We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

Our Charity acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility and is committed to preventing abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved. We recognise that health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person’s resilience. Additionally, we recognise that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help and that these factors can vary at different points in people’s lives.

We recognise the legal framework within which our charity needs to work to safeguard adults who have needs for care and support and as a result of those care and support needs may be unable to take action to protect themselves. The Youth Sport Trust will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding adult legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.

Actions taken by us will be consistent with the principles of adult safeguarding ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the adult concerned.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Adult Procedures, Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Procedures and Guidelines, the Code of Ethics and Codes of Conduct, Safeguarding Concerns Referrals Procedure, Disciplinary Procedure, Complaints and Process Errors Procedure, Whistleblowing Policy, Social Media Policy, Recruitment & Selection Policy, Data Protection Policy, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Dignity at Work and Bullying and Harassment Policy.

Adults are referred to throughout the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for clarity this relates to anyone 18 years and over.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of the Youth Sport Trust to safeguard adults and to ensure that everyone involved in our charity is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding adults.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding 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 charity.

Scope

This safeguarding adult policy and associated procedures applies to:

- all individuals involved in the Youth Sport Trust including employees, workers, volunteers, board members, trustees and all our partners.
- all concerns about the safety of adults involved in our charity, its activities, events and in the wider community.

We expect everyone involved with our charity to demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice as set out in this Safeguarding Adults Policy and associated procedures.

Commitments

To implement this policy, the Youth Sport Trust will ensure that:

- Everyone is aware of the safeguarding adult procedures and knows what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult.
- Any concern that an adult is not safe is taken seriously, responded to promptly, and followed up in line with the Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures.

- The well-being of those at risk of harm will be put first and the adult actively supported to communicate their views and the outcomes they want to achieve. Those views and wishes will be respected and supported unless there are overriding reasons not to.
- Any actions taken will respect the rights and dignity of all those involved and be proportionate to the risk of harm.
- Confidential, detailed, and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored in line with the YST's Data Protection Policy and Records and Retention Policy.
- We will act in accordance with best practice advice, for example, from UK Sport, Sport England, Sport Wales, Sport Scotland, Sport Northern Ireland, National Governing Bodies, NSPCC, and Ann Craft Trust.
- We will cooperate with the Police and the relevant Local Authorities in taking action to safeguard an adult.
- All employees, workers, volunteers, board members, trustees and partners understand their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults and have completed and are up to date with safeguarding adult training and learning opportunities, appropriate for their role.
- We apply safe recruitment practices and continually assesses the suitability of all our staff to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals in the charity.
- We share information about anyone found to be a risk to adults with the appropriate bodies. For example: Disclosure and Barring Service.
- When planning activities and events we 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.
- This policy, related policies (see above) and the Safeguarding Adults Procedures are reviewed no less than on a two-yearly basis and whenever there are changes in relevant legislation and/or government guidance as required by the Local Safeguarding Board, UK Sport, Sport England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland and/or because of any other significant change or event.

Implementation

The Youth Sport Trust is committed to developing and maintaining its capability to implement this policy and procedures. To do so the following will be in place:

- A clear line of accountability within the charity for the safety and welfare of all adults.
- A lead Safeguarding Officer with overall responsibility for safeguarding.
- A lead Event Safeguarding Officer with responsibility for safeguarding at Youth Sport Trust events or activities.
- Robust safeguarding procedures are in operation and promoted through our policies, procedures and the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct.
- Effective planning and risk assessment for safeguarding adults for events and activities with adult participation.
- All safeguarding concerns will be responded to in accordance with the charities policies, procedures, and guidelines.
- All adult safeguarding concerns, allegations and suspicions of harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
- A process for forming a Case Management Group to manage any adult safeguarding concerns, allegations, and suspicions of harm on a case-by-case basis (as appropriate).
- Access to relevant legal and professional advice (as required).
- Arrangements to work effectively with other relevant organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults, including arrangements for sharing information.

- Arrangements to ensure consistency and share good practice through the YST Safeguarding Strategy Group and monitor and evaluate the Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures.