

 YOUTH SPORT TRUST	POLICY	Document Number: SGPo01
	SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY	Version number: 2 Updated: February 2022 Next Review Date: February 2023

v.	Latest Amendment Details	Authorised by
1	Policy created in new format	SLT
2	Policy reviewed in light of Covid:19 and virtual delivery/events	Board of Trustees

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. Critical to our success is ensuring that we always provide a safe, friendly and enjoyable experience for children, which puts the welfare of the children as the top priority. We know that everyone working with children is in a position of trust and we take this responsibility very seriously. By virtue of their position they must act in the best interests of children in their care.

This updated policy document includes recent statutory guidance for all organisations providing services to children. It sets out how the YST and individuals should work together to safeguard, encourage and promote the welfare of children in accordance with the Children Acts, 1989 and 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (updated 2020), Government Guidance.

The Covid-19 pandemic has provided an opportunity for YST to review its current practices and develop new ways of delivering our programmes that respect all the requirements of the Government's Covid-19 best practice.

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. Over 25 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 objectives that underpin everything we do:

- **Transforming physical education** - We will work with teachers, young people, parents and policymakers to maximise PE's potential to improve children's wellbeing and achievement.
- **Removing barriers to sport** - We will support schools, clubs and families to remove the causes of negative experiences for young people.
- **Unlocking potential** - We will work to close the gaps created by inequality and disadvantage, particularly at key transitional moments in a young person's life like starting or changing school and preparing for employment.
- **Empowering activism** - We will equip them with the skills, confidence and opportunities to lead change in their communities.
- **Championing insight** - We will establish a research and innovation hub which evidences improvements to children's wellbeing and achievement.
- **Strengthening foundations** - We will deliver our charitable objectives through good governance, a skilled workforce and sustainable income.

We do this by developing innovative sport, PE and education projects and interventions to support young people. These are delivered in partnership with corporate sponsors, government, sport and education stakeholders, as well as schools. These interventions range from: running training camps for the next generation of Olympic hopefuls; using sport as a way of helping youngsters who may be struggling at school; to introducing new ways for young people to lead and volunteer in sport in their community. Our work is UK-wide, but we also undertake an impressive international programme of work.

YST supports schools to use sport to raise standards, achievement and attainment across all subject areas. It is our belief that PE and school sport can make a major contribution to many agendas – educational achievement, public health, community cohesion and, of course, sporting performance at the highest level. The way we work, and the organisational values are underpinned by a core set of values - trust, integrity, partnership working and responsibility. We know that our work changes young people's lives, and all at YST are committed to this goal.

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

Safeguarding Policy

“Every child and young person 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.”

Introduction

The Youth Sport Trust (YST) believes that all children have the right to be engaged and inspired by sport. We also believe that all children involved in sport should enjoy it safely, securely and protected from harm. Therefore, we are committed to ensuring that anyone working, or volunteering on behalf of, YST understands their mandatory responsibilities and demonstrates best practice in safeguarding children in their care. With this in mind, the YST have developed a Safeguarding Policy that applies to all individuals involved with YST whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, parents, sport and education stakeholders, schools or Corporate Partners.

Everyone has a role to play in safeguarding children and it is important to understand that safeguarding should not sit in isolation from all other activities within YST. Safeguarding is an integral part of all our work from policy and programme development through to the direct interaction with children at the events we deliver, this also includes any events where we support our partners. We will actively encourage and promote our safeguarding policy, procedures and good practice guidance to all involved in YST activities.

YST is committed to meeting its responsibilities and upholding all legislative requirements of organisations regarding the safeguarding of children.

Principles

Children and have the right to expect us to protect them from harm. By taking care to uphold these principles we can help to assure their welfare and development.

Anyone under the age of 18 years is considered a child for the purposes of the safeguarding policy, procedures and guidelines.

- The welfare and well-being of each child is and must always be paramount.
- All children have the right to be protected from harm regardless of their age, sex, language, ethnic origin, disability, religion or religious belief, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- All allegations and suspicions of harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.
- All individuals working with children must champion the right of every individual to participate in sport.
- Every child 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.
- We support those children we work with to build relationships with each other based on openness, honesty, mutual trust and respect and demonstrate proper personal behaviour at all times.
- All individuals will respond to a safeguarding concern or issue in line with YST Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, procedures and guidelines.
- Provide children with information, skills and support to help them keep themselves safe and report any concerns.
- All staff and volunteers will have safeguarding training and development opportunities relevant to their role.
- All partner organisations and agencies working with the YST will agree minimum safeguarding standards.
- YST recognises the roles and responsibilities of statutory agencies in relation to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. We are committed to working together with Local Safeguarding Partners and complying with their procedures.

Our Responsibilities

YST recognises its responsibilities to protect and safeguard children.

YST will:

- Provide an environment that is healthy, safe and secure.
- Appoint a Lead Safeguarding Officer with overall responsibility for safeguarding and an individual with safeguarding responsibilities at all events or activities.
- Work in partnership with key safeguarding stakeholders and other Sport and Education Partners.
- Establish a safe recruitment process for YST led events and activities which includes the management of the criminal record checking process¹.
- Provide appropriate training and support for all staff, partner organisations and agencies where relevant.
- Ensure all safeguarding concerns are responded to in line with YST policies, procedures and guidelines and take action when concerns are raised regarding staff or volunteers outside a YST event or activity.
- Take disciplinary action against those who breach YST policies.
- Ensure consistency and share good practice through the YST Safeguarding Strategy Group and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

Definitions

Children and/or young people are referred to throughout the Policy, Procedures and Guidelines and relates to anyone under the age of 18 years.

Monitoring of the Policy

YST Safeguarding Policy has been approved by the YST Board and will be regularly monitored with a full Policy review taking place annually. The following may also evoke a review of the policy:

- Any changes in legislation
- Any changes in governance of YST
- The result of a significant case.

The policy accompanies YST's Equality and Diversity Policy; Safeguarding Adults Policy; Recruitment & Selection Policy; Disciplinary Policy; Safeguarding concerns procedure; Complaints and Process Errors Procedure; Social Media Policy and our Whistleblowing Policy.

Implementation

YST are committed and engaged to maintain the CPSU Safeguarding Standards to ensure we address our core safeguarding responsibilities.

YST Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Procedures and Guidelines are intended to be a UK wide policy and have been written with this purpose in mind. YST recognises that there are legislative differences. However, the guiding principles underpinning legislation remain the same.

For example, when any references are made to the following:

- Children Acts 1989 and 2004 - The corresponding legislation in Northern Ireland is the Children (NI) Order 1995 and in Scotland, the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and The Protection of freedoms Act 2012 - The corresponding legislation in Northern Ireland is the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Order 2003 and in Scotland it is the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003.
- Disclosure and Barring Service for England and Wales -The corresponding agency in Northern Ireland is AccessNI and in Scotland it is Disclosure Scotland.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (updated 2020) – the updated guidance in Wales cover the whole country and are called Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019: National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (Scottish Government 2014) and in Northern Ireland it is Guidance to Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland 2014.

¹ A vetting check may be undertaken using any of the following organisations – Disclosure & Barring Service (England & Wales), AccessNI (Northern Ireland), Disclosure Scotland (Scotland) or Garda Central Vetting Unit (Republic of Ireland).

YST's implementation of their Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Procedures and Guidelines will be led by the YST Safeguarding Strategy Group, a representative group from across YST, chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Covid-19 and Safeguarding

The Covid-19 Pandemic has led to a number of changes to the way we work and engage with children. There are unlikely to be many new instances of abuse or poor practice from the work that YST are currently leading or supporting. However, safeguarding is still a priority and all staff continue to have a safeguarding responsibility. Cases that could be shared with staff may be related to incidents that happened in the past - including time spent in lockdown. The Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Procedures and Guidelines should be followed in all cases.