

REPORTING SAFEGUARDING / WELFARE CONCERNS POLICY

The purpose and scope of this policy statement:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child it is important that you report your concerns - no action is not an option. It's also important you stay calm, and if any child is present, reassure them they are not to blame. But don't make promises of confidentiality or outcome.

ESF Events acknowledge its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person attending our events and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all participants. We acknowledge that some children, including disabled children or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. We acknowledge that every child or young person who participates in our events should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. ESF Events recognise that this is the responsibility of every adult associated with the festival.

A child is defined in law, as anyone up until their 18th birthday.

Safeguarding - is about creating positive, enjoyable and inclusive environments that support children's wellbeing. It is about supporting their best interests as they move through childhood into adulthood, as well as taking action to prevent anything that could affect physical and emotional health and development. Keeping children safe and protecting their right to live in safety, free from abuse, neglect and poor practice is essential.

Abuse - is defined as: 'a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons and, for the purposes of safeguarding children, shall include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, bullying and hazing.'

The procedure

All teams attending our events must have a nominated Tour Welfare Contact, who is attending the festival. Teams should ensure that all members of their touring party are aware who their nominated Tour Welfare Contact is and provide contact details to all members of their touring party. The nominated Tour Welfare Contact will be listed on the team's ESF Player Registration Form.

All safeguarding concerns about a child or young person should be reported to a member of the ESF Events organising team.

If the issue is one of poor practice ESF Events will either:

- a. Deal with the matter themselves or
- b. Seek advice from ESF Events Designated Safeguarding Lead

If the concern is more serious - possible child abuse - they will contact the ESF Events Designated Safeguarding Lead first, then immediately contact the Police or Children's Social Care in the area as to where the child resides.

This policy outlines in detail what to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child and includes a flow diagram which describes the referral process.

Legal framework:

We subscribe to the appropriate National Governing Bodies (NGB) Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, and are committed to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and recommendations, including statutory guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE), Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023.

Supporting documents:

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents, including:

- Codes of conduct
- Reporting your concern about the welfare of a child or young person
- Equality inc. LGBT
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Missing/Lost child
- Online safety
- Photography
- Safer recruitment
- Whistleblowing

We recognise that:

ESF Events has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that the appropriate NGB safeguarding policies apply to everyone in youth sports, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. e.g. whether you are a volunteer, match official, helper on club tours, coach, club official or medical staff, we all have a responsibility to safeguard children and young people.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing an ESF Events Designated Safeguarding Lead, adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures providing effective management for staff and volunteers through support and quality assurance measures, so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.

- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.

Our commitment:

All clubs attending our festivals should have an appointed a Welfare Officer in line with the relevant NGB guidelines. The post holder will be involved with Welfare Officer training provided by the NGB. If the Club Welfare Officer is not in attendance at the festival, each team shall nominate a Tour Welfare Contact. The Welfare Officer is the first point of contact for all club members regarding concerns about the welfare of any child or young person. The Club Welfare Officer can liaise directly with ESF Events and be familiar with the procedures for referring any concerns. They will also play a proactive role in increasing awareness of Respect, poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

We acknowledge and endorse the appropriate NGB identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable at any of our events. If bullying does occur, all players or parents/carers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly.

Reporting concerns:

Any issues of safeguarding or welfare that are reported to ESF Events organising team during the festival will be reported to the nominated Tour Welfare Contact for the associated club.

Contact details:

Safeguarding Phonenumber: 07947 313302 (operational during festival dates only)

Office Phone: 01664 566360 (9.30am - 5.00pm / Mon - Fri)

Email: safeguarding@esfevents.co.uk

ESF Events Designated Safeguarding Lead

Name: Dannii Donovan

ESF Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Name: Martyn Young

Useful numbers:

- The appropriate National Governing Body - The Football Association (FA), Scottish Youth Football Association (SYFA), England Netball, Rugby Football Union (RFU) or Rugby Football League (RFL).
- ESF Events Safeguarding phone line on 07947 313302 (operational during festival dates only)
- The Police or Children's Social Care
- NSPCC 24 hour Helpline 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

Safeguarding or Welfare concerns about a child or young person?

Here is what to do.....

Low Level Safeguarding and Welfare Concerns

Seek advice from your Clubs Welfare Officer and/or ESF Events organisers at the festival



Contact the ESF Designated Safeguarding Lead



Contact Butlins's/ Haven or St George's Park Resort Safety Team if relevant

Low level concerns
e.g.- verbal comments

High Level Safeguarding and Welfare Concerns

Contact the Police or Children's Social Care



Contact the ESF Designated Safeguarding Lead



Document the steps taken and share with the ESF Designated Safeguarding Lead within 72 hrs

High level concerns:
e.g. witness physical abuse