

ONLINE SAFETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

This policy provides guidance on how ESF Events expect individuals who work for us to behave online. It incorporates the provisions of the **Online Safety Act 2023**, aligning with its commitment to fostering a safer digital environment.

Aims:

The aims of our online safety and social media policy are:

- To provide staff and volunteers with policy and procedure information regarding online safety and inform them how to respond to incidents.
- To ensure ESF Events staff are operating in line with our values and within the law regarding how to behave online including compliance with the **Online Safety Act 2023**.

Understanding the online world:

As part of using the internet and social media, ESF Events will:

- Understand the safety aspects, including what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour for staff and volunteers when using websites, social media, Apps and other forms of digital communication.
- Ensure we adhere to relevant legislation, including the **Online Safety Act 2023**, and good practice guidelines when using social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, X (Twitter), TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Be Real).
- Regularly review existing safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that online safeguarding issues are fully integrated, including making sure concerns of abuse or disclosures that take place online are written into our reporting procedures.

We recognise that:

- The online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges.
- We have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our events are protected from potential harm online.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

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

- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Align our practices with the Online Safety Act 2023 by providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online through our ESF Events organisers information pack.
- Supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online.

- Developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person.
- Reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly.

- Ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in ESF Events are held securely and shared only as appropriate.
- Ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only for the purpose specified in the ESF Photography and Filming Policy.
- Examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- Having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse).
- Providing support and training for staff and volunteers in dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.
- Making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account.
- Reviewing the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Contacts:

- ESF Events Safeguarding phone: 07947 313302 (for the duration of the festival)
- ESF Events Safeguarding email: safeguarding@esfevents.co.uk The appropriate National Governing Body - The Football Association, Scottish Youth Football Association, England Netball, Rugby Football Union, Rugby Football League
- The Police or Children's Social Care
- NSPCC 24 hour Helpline 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk
- Child Protection in Sport Unit via cpsu@nspcc.org.uk
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) www.ceop.police.uk
- The UK Safer Internet Centre www.safeinternet.org.uk