

Duty of Care Policy and Procedures

Duty of care

Clubs have a responsibility for the safety and welfare of lifters, coaches, volunteers, officials and visitors. This responsibility applies to all clubs, regardless of their size or structure. There is a legal responsibility to ensure that participants are protected against harm or danger whilst taking part in weightlifting/disability powerlifting or related activities. This is legally termed the 'Duty of Care'. This becomes particularly relevant when dealing with children.

When working with children, an adult who carries out a supervisory role would take on certain responsibilities while the child was in their care. This may include:

- Holding a responsibility for care and well-being during training
- Safe dispersal after training
- Providing first aid
- Providing/consenting to emergency medical treatment
- Chaperoning
- Team Managing

The legal terminology for this relationship is that the person would be acting 'in loco-parentis'. The literal definition is 'for the parents'. In BWL terms we refer to this as 'in place of a parent' and acting as a reasonable trained adult. The expected standard for behaviour is based on reasonableness. The Duty of Care starts from the time a child arrives at a club or event, until the child is returned to their parent.

In order to fulfil the 'Duty of Care', weight lifting /disability powerlifting activity providers must make sure that the following areas are properly covered:

- Safeguarding and welfare
- Safe environment including safe equipment
- Safe development of the individual through appropriate physical and psychological preparation and progressive skill development
- Provision of suitable first aid support and emergency procedures
- Exercising reasonable care at all times.

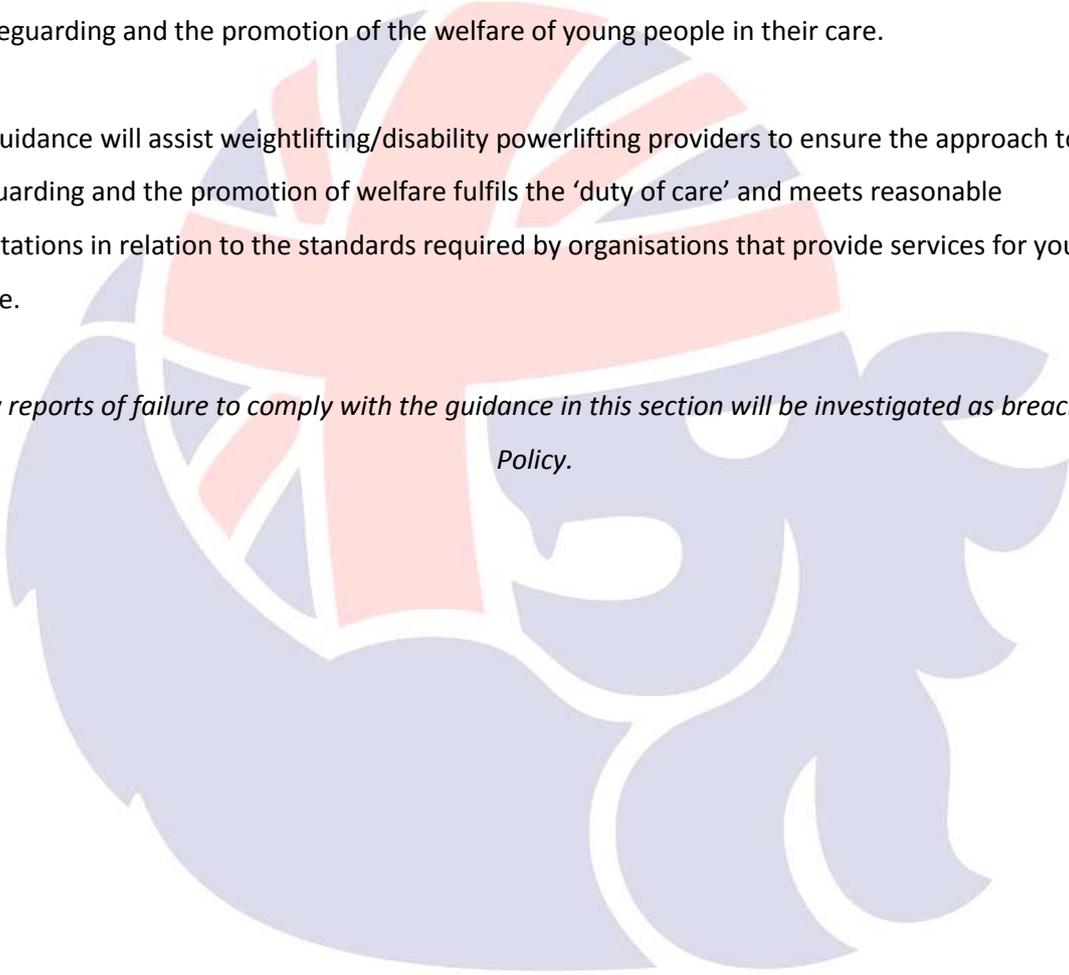
Those with an overall responsibility for running a club or providing weightlifting/disability powerlifting activity must ensure that policies and procedures are in place and implemented to

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ensure that the 'Duty of Care' is met. However, BWL Policy, training courses and resource materials are designed to provide the prudent club, welfare officer, coach, judge, official and parent with a sufficient basis of knowledge and guidance to enable them to make informed judgements in respect of safeguarding and the promotion of the welfare of young people in their care.

This guidance will assist weightlifting/disability powerlifting providers to ensure the approach to safeguarding and the promotion of welfare fulfils the 'duty of care' and meets reasonable expectations in relation to the standards required by organisations that provide services for young people.

Any reports of failure to comply with the guidance in this section will be investigated as breach of Policy.



BRITISH
WEIGHT LIFTING