

# Policy



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<b>Date</b>	<b>7 January 2026</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Policy on the Participation of Overseas Coaches at BWL Events</b>

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## **a. Executive Summary**

This policy sets out the conditions under which overseas coaches may participate in British Weight Lifting (BWL) sanctioned competitions, with specific reference to Commonwealth and/or Olympic qualifying events.

Overseas coaches who do not hold a current BWL coaching licence must hold a valid International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) coaching licence and provide evidence of this licence to BWL no later than seven (7) days prior to the event.

All overseas coaches are required to comply fully with BWL Competition Regulations, Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, and the BWL Code of Conduct as a condition of accreditation. Failure to meet these requirements may result in denial or withdrawal of accreditation, removal from the Field of Play, warm up, and/or disciplinary action.

The policy adopts a proportionate safeguarding approach, recognising the limited involvement of overseas coaches at BWL-sanctioned events while maintaining robust safeguarding controls and enforcement mechanisms.

BWL retains the right to verify documentation and to refuse, suspend, or revoke accreditation where policy requirements are not met.

## **b. Background**

BWL is responsible for the governance, regulation, and safeguarding of weightlifting and para powerlifting competitions conducted under its authority within the UK. As part of this responsibility, BWL must ensure that all individuals operating in an official coaching capacity at BWL sanctioned events meet appropriate standards of qualification, conduct, and safeguarding.

In the absence of a BWL coaching licence, it is necessary to establish clear and consistent requirements for the accreditation and participation of such overseas coaches to ensure parity with UK-licensed coaches and to protect the integrity of competition.

This policy clarifies the eligibility criteria for overseas coaches at BWL events, including minimum coaching qualifications, evidential requirements, safeguarding arrangements, and compliance with BWL Competition Regulations, Safeguarding Policies, and the Code of Conduct. The policy is intended to support fair competition, uphold safeguarding standards, and provide event organisers and officials with a clear framework for accreditation and enforcement.

## **c. Insurance**

Participation by overseas coaches in accordance with this policy shall be deemed compliant with BWL's insurance arrangements, including in respect of Commonwealth and/or Olympic qualifying events, provided that all requirements of this policy, the BWL Competition Regulations, Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, and the BWL Code of Conduct are met.

#### **d. Policy Position**

Any coach who is ordinarily resident outside the UK and who does not hold a current BWL coaching licence shall be classified as an Overseas Coach for the purposes of this policy.

An Overseas Coach may only act in an official coaching capacity at a BWL-sanctioned event where they hold both:

- a valid International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) coaching licence; and
- current BWL membership.

The Overseas Coach shall provide satisfactory documentary evidence of their valid IWF coaching licence and current BWL membership to BWL no later than seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the relevant event.

In addition to the requirements set out above, all Overseas Coaches must comply at all times with:

- BWL Competition Regulations;
- BWL Safeguarding Policies and Procedures; and
- BWL Code of Conduct and any related disciplinary regulations.

Compliance with the policies and regulations listed in this section shall be a condition of accreditation. Any breach may result in withdrawal of accreditation, removal from the Field of Play (including warm up), and/or referral to the appropriate disciplinary process.

BWL reserves the right to verify the authenticity and validity of all documentation submitted and to refuse, suspend, or revoke accreditation at its sole discretion.

#### **e. Safeguarding and DBS Requirements**

BWL is committed to maintaining the highest standards of safeguarding and to promoting the welfare of children, young people, and adults at risk participating in BWL-sanctioned activities.

##### DBS Requirements for UK Based Coaches

All coaches who are ordinarily resident in the UK and who operate in an official coaching capacity at BWL sanctioned events are required to hold an appropriate and current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate. This requirement reflects the likelihood that UK based coaches engage in regular, ongoing, and potentially unsupervised contact with athletes over extended periods, which may increase the risk of safeguarding concerns, including grooming behaviours.

##### Overseas Coaches and DBS Exemption

BWL recognises that Overseas Coaches are ordinarily resident outside the UK and typically participate in BWL sanctioned events on a short-term, intermittent, or one-off basis, often limited to the duration of a specific competition.

Safeguarding policy and statutory guidance recognise that grooming and related safeguarding risks generally develop over a sustained period of time and through repeated access. Given the limited nature of an Overseas Coach's involvement in BWL sanctioned events, BWL considers that the risk of grooming or sustained safeguarding harm is significantly reduced and can be effectively managed without the requirement for a UK DBS certificate.

Accordingly, Overseas Coaches are not required to obtain a DBS certificate as a condition of accreditation, provided that all alternative safeguarding measures set out in this policy are met.

### Alternative Safeguarding Controls for Overseas Coaches

In place of a DBS requirement, the following safeguarding controls shall apply to all Overseas Coaches:

- Mandatory compliance with BWL Safeguarding Policies and Procedures;
- Mandatory acceptance of, and adherence to, the BWL Code of Conduct;
- Accreditation strictly limited to the duration and scope of the relevant BWL sanctioned event;
- Restriction of access to the Field of Play and athlete areas to times necessary for competition activity only;
- Oversight and supervision by BWL officials and event staff during the event; and
- Immediate withdrawal of accreditation and/or removal from the Field of Play (including warm up) where safeguarding concerns arise, without prejudice to any further disciplinary or referral process.

### Safeguarding Enforcement

Any safeguarding concern involving an Overseas Coach shall be managed in accordance with BWL Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. BWL reserves the right to refuse, suspend, or revoke accreditation and to refer matters to the appropriate national or international federation, event organiser, or statutory authority where appropriate.

BWL considers that the safeguarding framework set out in this policy provides a proportionate, effective, and defensible approach that upholds safeguarding standards while recognising the practical realities of overseas coach participation.

#### **f. International Events**

Where an international weightlifting or para powerlifting event is held in the UK under the authority or ownership of an international federation or other recognised event owner, the regulations, accreditation requirements, and competition rules of the event owner shall take precedence in respect of coach eligibility and participation.

In such circumstances, BWL shall respect and support the application of the event owner's regulations, including those relating to coach accreditation, licensing, and safeguarding, insofar as they apply to the event.

However, BWL reserves the right to take such action as it deems necessary where safeguarding concerns arise within its jurisdiction, including cooperation with the event owner, statutory authorities, or relevant governing bodies.