

Meet British Weight Lifting's Safeguarding Lead

British Weight Lifting is committed to promoting the safety and welfare of adults, adults at risk, children and young people engaged in the sport at all levels and ensuring everyone will be treated fairly and equally. We do not condone discrimination on the grounds of sex, age, disability, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity or marital or civil partnership, gender reassignment or social status.

We caught up with Sue Ward, British Weight Lifting's Safeguarding Lead.

What does your safeguarding role at British Weight Lifting involve?

"If anyone has any concerns, allegations or suspicions of suspected abuse from WITHIN the sport environment they will tell their club welfare officer who in turn will complete a BWL incident form and send it through to myself. I will then make sure the incident follows the appropriate course of action".

For more information on BWL's Guide for Reporting Concerns within the Sport please click [here](#).

What is safeguarding in sport?

"Sport England defines safeguarding in sport as "the process of protecting children and adults from harm by providing a safe space in which to play sport and be active."

Whose responsibility is safeguarding in sport?

"Everyone who is involved in sport has a responsibility for safeguarding and that includes the clubs, groups and associations, their coaches, staff and volunteers, and the children, young people and their families.

It is essential that anyone who works or volunteers has the knowledge and skills needed to help keep children and adults safe.

All clubs/groups should have a written code of conduct showing what is required of coaches, volunteers and participants (including children and their families). The code should cover what is unacceptable behaviour, for example bullying, physical intimidation or harm, racism, sexism or any other kind of oppressive behaviour. It should also cover clear guidelines about appropriate relationships and boundaries between coaches, volunteers, participating young people and their families".

What would you do if you were concerned about a colleague's behaviour towards children?

"I would report this immediately to the clubs safeguarding officer to make sure that it gets followed up formally. If for any reason you don't feel comfortable going to the safeguarding officer with the concern, you can contact me directly at sue.ward@britishweightlifting.org".

What are the procedures for reporting a concern to British Weight Lifting?

“Reporting a concern can be an intimidating process so BWL have put together some helpful guides to follow.

[Reporting concerns outside the sport](#)

[Reporting concerns within the sport](#)

[Responding to concerns from a young person](#)

[Safeguarding disciplinary guidelines and process](#)

[Whistle blowing policy](#)

If you have any other safeguarding concerns or would like further advice, please contact me at British Weight Lifting on 01132 249402”.

Where can I find guidance on safeguarding and child protection in sport?

We have a safeguarding web page where we have lots of useful information, codes of conduct, policies and procedures. This can be found here <https://britishweightlifting.org/about/safeguarding>”

The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) is also a great website to visit. They have lots of great information for clubs, volunteers and parents. This can be found here <https://thecpsu.org.uk/>