

Safeguarding in Sport - Key guidance

The underlying safeguarding principles covered in this course apply as good practice across all four countries of the United Kingdom. However, there are some slight variations in terms of legislation, terminology, definitions and procedural details between the four countries of the UK.

In this document, we have summarised some of the key differences and provided links to the full statutory guidance. We recommend that you familiarise yourself with the guidance that relates to your particular setting.

Key definitions/terminology



Child

In England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, child refers to anyone under the age of 18.

In Scotland, an individual becomes an adult on turning 16 years old. However, the definition of 'child' varies according to legal context. This is made explicit in the relevant statutory guidance.

For this Safeguarding in Sport course, by child, we are referring to anyone under the age of 18 years old.



Safeguarding and Child Protection

In England, Northern Ireland and Wales, these terms are both defined in statutory guidance. Whilst the definitions differ slightly, the principles are aligned.

In Scotland, safeguarding is not defined in statutory guidance but child protection is defined as protecting a child from abuse or neglect.

Specific national statutory guidance

The following details some of the key statutory guidance relating to safeguarding children in sport, for each of the UK's countries.

Country	Key document (linked)	Details
England	Working Together to Safeguard Children (WTSC)	<p>In this statutory guidance, safeguarding is defined as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Protecting children from maltreatment.2. Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development.3. Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.4. Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes. <p>Child protection is defined as:</p> <p>Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.</p>
	Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)	<p>Although this guidance refers specifically to safeguarding children in an educational setting, much of the information can be easily transferred to a sports setting outside of the education sector.</p> <p>The document covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part One: Safeguarding information for all staff.• Part Two: The management of safeguarding.• Part Three: Safer recruitment.• Part Four: Allegations made against/concerns raised in relation to teachers, including supply teachers, other staff, volunteers and contractors.• Part Five: Child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harrassment.

→ Our Hub Article [Safeguarding Legislation](#), although written for schools, has a useful breakdown of the key legislation which underpins safeguarding, and includes further detail on the guidance above.

Specific national statutory guidance

<p>Northern Ireland</p>	<p><u>Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland</u></p>	<p>This guidance states that the term safeguarding is intended to be used in its widest sense, encompassing the full range of promotion, prevention and protection activity. Effective safeguarding activity will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the welfare for the child and young person. • Prevent harm occurring through early identification of risk and appropriate, timely intervention. • Protect children and young people from harm when this is required. <p>With regards to child protection, it states:</p> <p>A child in need of protection is a child who is at risk of, or likely to suffer, significant harm which can be attributed to a person or persons or organisation, either by an act of commission or omission; or a child who has suffered or is suffering significant harm as defined in <u>Article 50 of the Children Order</u>.</p>
<p>Scotland</p>	<p><u>National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland</u></p>	<p>This statutory guidance defines child protection as:</p> <p>The processes involved in consideration, assessment and planning of required action, together with the actions themselves, where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm from abuse, neglect or exploitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child protection guidance provides overall direction for agencies and professional disciplines where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm. • Child protection procedures are initiated when police, social work or health professionals determine that a child may have been abused or may be at risk of significant harm, and when an inter-agency referral discussion takes place.
	<p><u>Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)</u></p>	<p>This guidance is based on children's rights and it states that its principles reflect the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The approach laid out in GIRFEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is child-focused. • Is based on an understanding of the wellbeing of a child in their current situation (taking into consideration the wider influences on a child or young person and their developmental needs when thinking about their wellbeing). • Is based on tackling needs early. • Requires joined-up working – it requires children, young people, parents, and the services they need working together in a coordinated way to meet the specific needs and improve their wellbeing.

Specific national statutory guidance

Wales	<u>Working Together to Safeguard People: Code of Safeguarding Practice</u>	This guidance is for individuals, groups and organisations offering activities or services to children and adults in Wales.
	<u>Safeguarding Guidance</u>	This page brings together a range of specific guidance for safeguarding in Wales.
	<u>Wales Safeguarding Procedures - Children and Young People at Risk of Harm</u>	<p>These are a set of common child protection procedures for safeguarding boards in Wales (there are also procedures for safeguarding adults).</p> <p>The two key principles that underpin the practices are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguarding and protecting is everybody's responsibility.• A child-centred approach.