



IRONBRIDGE ROWING CLUB SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

- Sally-Ann Beech – Club Welfare Officer
- Sarah Staniforth – Club Welfare Officer

1. Policy Statement

Ironbridge Rowing Club is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk. We follow the principles and guidance of British Rowing's Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy and Sport England's safeguarding standards. Creating a safe and positive environment for all is everyone's responsibility.

2. Purpose

This policy outlines how the club ensures the protection of children and adults at risk, sets out expected behaviours, and establishes procedures for responding to concerns or allegations.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All club members
- Coaches, volunteers, and officials
- Visitors participating in club activities
- Events hosted or supported by Ironbridge Rowing Club

4. Key Principles (Aligned with British Rowing & Sport England)

- The welfare of all participants is paramount
- All individuals have equal rights to protection
- *Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility*. UK safeguarding law places general responsibility on every adult to prevent harm.
- Concerns must be reported promptly and handled appropriately

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Welfare Officers (Sally-Ann Beech & Sarah Staniforth)

- Act as main contacts for safeguarding concerns
- Ensure policies follow British Rowing and Sport England guidance
- Maintain reporting pathways
- Review policies and procedures in line with any national updates or guidance from British Rowing or Sport England.
- Ensure that those working with children or vulnerable adults are up to date with best practice of how to safeguard these individuals, how to spot signs of concern and what to do.

Coaches & Volunteers:

- Hold appropriate qualifications
- Complete mandatory safeguarding training
- Promote safe practices

Members:

- Follow the Code of Conduct
- Report concerns

6. Definitions

Adult at Risk: an adult who has care and support needs; is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect; and because of their care and support needs cannot protect themselves against actual or potential abuse or neglect.

Child: anyone under the age of eighteen years. Throughout this policy, we will refer to both children and young people as a child or children.

Child Abuse: physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse and/or neglect. Note that abuse can take place in person and/or online, by other children and/or adults, including those in positions of trust;

Bullying: Bullying is behaviour that is repeated, intends to hurt someone physically or emotionally and can include physical assault, social bullying such as teasing, threatening behaviour, name-calling and cyber-bullying

Emotional Abuse: the ongoing emotional maltreatment of a child. It can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and development. Children who are emotionally abused are often suffering from another type of abuse at the same time

Neglect: the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs. A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care; maybe put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm. They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents/carers. A child who is neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well. Neglect can cause serious, long-term damage to a child

Physical Abuse: deliberately hurting a child including hitting, kicking, burning, slapping or throwing objects at a child, causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts

Sexual Abuse: forcing or persuading a child to take part in sexual activities. It does not have to involve physical contact and it can happen on or off-line. Sometimes the child will not understand that what is happening to them is abuse or understand that it is wrong

Child Safeguarding: proactively promoting safe, inclusive, child-focused environments which keep all children safe from harm. Recognising that some

children may be more vulnerable to abuse or neglect, such as children with disabilities or in care; and putting tailored procedures in place to minimise the risk of harm to all children.

7. Safe Recruitment

We follow safer recruitment practices in line with British Rowing guidance:

- Role descriptions for all volunteer and coaching posts
- Enhanced DBS checks where required
- Reference checks
- Induction and safeguarding training

8. Codes of Conduct – see Ironbridge Rowing Clubs code of Conduct

Codes of conduct apply to:

- Coaches
- Athletes
- Junior members
- Parents/guardians

These reflect British Rowing's expectations on behaviour, communication, and boundaries.

9. Training Requirements

All coaches and volunteers must complete:

- British Rowing-approved safeguarding training
- First aid training (where relevant)
- Refresher safeguarding training every 3 years

10. Recognising Abuse

Forms of abuse include physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, bullying, cyberbullying, and poor practice. Definitions align with British Rowing and Sport

England guidance. Please read NSPCC guide to recognising abuse [Recognising and responding to child abuse and neglect | NSPCC Learning](#)

11. Reporting Concerns

If someone is at immediate risk: call 999.

Otherwise:

1. Report concerns to the Club Welfare Officer
2. Do not promise confidentiality
3. Record information factually
4. Welfare Officer contacts British Rowing's Lead Safeguarding Officer as required
5. Follow British Rowing incident reporting process

12. Whistleblowing

Members can raise concerns about poor practice or misconduct without fear of reprisal. Sport England's whistleblowing standards support this.

13. Managing Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers

The club follows British Rowing's disciplinary and case management procedures. All allegations are taken seriously and referred to statutory agencies where required.

14. Online Safety

Digital communication must follow British Rowing's standards:

- No one-to-one communication with juniors
- Use official club channels only
- Parental oversight for junior members

15. Medical & Physical Safety

The club follows British Rowing's RowSafe guidance:

- Safe equipment checks

- Incident reporting
- Boating and water safety
- Emergency action plan

16. Data Protection

Safeguarding records are stored securely in line with UK GDPR and British Rowing data protection guidance.

17. POLICY REVIEW

- Reviewed annually or sooner if national guidance changes.
- Compliance is mandatory for all club members.
- Breaches may result in safeguarding action.