



Safeguarding and Child Protection - Frequent Asked Questions and Answers

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What is Safeguarding and Child Protection about?

Safeguarding is about upholding children and vulnerable adults' rights to be safe and treated with due respect. Pentathlon GB has both a moral obligation and legal duty to uphold good practice and safeguard children and does this via various means.

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What is Child Abuse?

Children can be abused in different ways. They can be physically injured, for example, by malicious hard hitting in fencing. They can also be abused sexually, which means that they have experienced inappropriate sexual behaviour or language instigated by peers or adults. Emotionally abused, where a child is constantly criticised, ignored or humiliated. Neglect is another form of abuse, where a child is not properly cared or catered for. For example, where they are expected to use ill fitting equipment, run on surfaces not checked, ride over fences they are not technically or psychologically ready for.

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Whose Responsibility is Safeguarding?

Every adult has a moral and statutory duty for the care, custody and control of any child under the age of 18 under their supervision. It doesn't matter where the abuse takes place, but it is important for parents, for example, to report if their child is being abused by a coach, or a coach to report if they are suspicious that a child's behaviour reflects abuse in the home, or school, etc.

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How do I recognize Abuse?

There are many physical and emotional signs that reflect abuse and neglect, ranging from bruises to withdrawal.

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I am being abused. Who can help me?

Since abuse can take many forms it is likely that several agencies may be in a position to assist. The important point is to tell someone you can trust at the earliest opportunity. You should not be fearful of doing so since the matter will be dealt with in strictest confidence. Click [here](#)

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Who should I speak to if I have a concern about a child?

If you suspect that a child is being abused, seek advice immediately. The critical action is to remove them from danger. This may be a case for the Police or social services. If you feel unsure and would like to discuss the situation, contact the Lead Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer-

Richard Cox, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) Helpline, or other such agency (contact details below). Even what you might regard as minor or simply a case of poor practice should be reported to the Lead Officer. Only through reporting the problem can measures be taken to eliminate it happening again and to other children. Please make use of the official Incident Report forms which helps identify the sort of information that will be helpful to those investigating the complaint.

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What Happens After I make a Complaint?

The matter will be dealt with by the appropriate authorities. Offences of a criminal nature will be reported to the Police and Children's Services. Matters dealing with poor practice will be investigated by a Case Management Group.

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Can the Complaint be made Anonymously?

No, but the matter will be dealt with in the strictest confidence and *Pentathlon GB* operates a Whistle Blowing Policy. The Lead Officer will be available to help.

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Am I allowed to physically restrain a difficult child?

There are clear Codes of Conduct and Guidelines on effective coaching techniques, dealing with difficult children and potentially dangerous situations.

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What if you accidentally hurt a child?

If you accidentally hurt a child and they seem distressed in any manner, appear sexually aroused by your actions, or misunderstand something you have done, report any such incident immediately to the Lead Officer and make a brief written note of it. You should also inform the child's parents/carers, preferably in person.

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What happens if an allegation is made about me?

If allegations of breaching *Pentathlon GB* policies and Codes of Conduct are substantiated, the matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Panel for

determining sanctions. Any proof of harming a child or adult, whether leading to a ban or resignation must by law be reported to the DBS.

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Are there any training programmes I can attend?

It is now a minimum requirement for all coaches and officials working closely with children within *Pentathlon GB* to undertake SCUK's Safeguarding and Child Protection I within 3 months of starting work and Safeguarding and Child Protection II within 3 years. These 3 hour courses are run throughout the country, details of which can be found on SCUK's website (Course finder). The cost is usually, £30. Financial support is often locally and in some circumstances from *Pentathlon GB* (contact the Lead Officer).

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What is the Disclosure and Barring Service?

The Disclosure and Barring Service was formed in December 2012 by the merger of the *Criminal Records Bureau*(CRB) and Independent *Safeguarding Authority* (ISA).

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What is an Enhanced Disclosure?

A more detailed record of a person's history possibly containing information from the Police National Computer, local Police intelligence and a check of Government lists of those people banned from working with children. *Pentathlon GB* uses the information to help decide if a person is suitable to work with children and vulnerable adults in MP.

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Why do people involved in *Pentathlon GB* need to have a (formerly CRB) Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check?

Not everyone in *Pentathlon GB* needs to have an enhanced *DBS* check, only those in Regulated Activity. The law requires that *Pentathlon GB* ensures that we do not allow those who are banned from working with children to be involved in our sport. The *DBS* check is how *PentathlonGB* identifies people who are banned. It also allows *Pentathlon GB* to make responsible recruitment decisions about whether people that have significant histories that are a potential risk to children. If they do *Pentathlon GB* can prevent them from being involved in Modern Pentathlon.

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How do I know if I need to do a *DBS* Disclosure?

Those who are working directly with children and young people in Regulated Activity need a *DBS* check. This means that if you care for, train, supervise or have sole care of children and young people under the age of 18 in MP as part of your duties you do need to have a *DBS* check.

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How do I get an *DBS* Disclosure?

If you are an employee of *Pentathlon GB* working with children or vulnerable adults in regulated activity (see definition), you will be asked to complete a form which will request your permission to carry out a *DBS* check as well as asking you to sign a self-declaration form. On receipt of this completed form the Lead Safeguarding Officer will arrange for a *DBS* check to be carried out.

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How much does a *DBS* check cost?

Pentathlon GB do not currently charge for volunteers although there is a cost to the Association.

For those taking an income from *Pentathlon GB*, a fee is chargeable and will be deducted from payments unless requested to be done otherwise. This money goes directly to the *Home Office*.

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I have got a *DBS* check for my work. Do I need another one?

Yes. *Pentathlon GB* has taken advice on this and currently there are real risks in carrying Disclosures from one job to another. However, new legislation under the *Protection of Freedoms Act of 2012*, effective from Spring 2013 will be the development of a single disclosure. More information will be supplied in due course.

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How long does it take to get an *DBS* Disclosure?

This partly depends on the person applying but with the new on-line system it can be as quick as 3 days.

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What if the information on my *DBS* Disclosure is wrong?

This is called a dispute. You need to ring or e-mail the Disclosure and Baring Service 0870 909 0811 customerservices@db.s.gsi.gov.uk *Pentathlon GB* cannot make any changes on your behalf you must ring.

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Who will see my Disclosure?

Only you will be supplied with a copy of the Disclosure produced and it

will be necessary for you to share this with the Safeguarding Lead Officer in order to start working for the organization. No copy of the Disclosure will be retained by *Pentathlon GB*.

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What happens if my Disclosure reveals previous convictions, will I still be allowed to work with children in MP?

Pentathlon GB has a legal responsibility to risk assess ex-offenders as part of their rehabilitation process into mainstream society. Such an assessment will be made by the Lead Officer in conjunction with the *CEO* and a member of the Board.

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What is Regulated Activity?

Pentathlon GB defines 'Regulated Activity' as any activity of a specified nature that involves managing or supervising children or vulnerable adults frequently (once a month or more often) or intensive (such as training camps) and/or overnight (between 2am and 6am) Such activities include teaching, coaching, training, care, supervision, advice, treatment and transportation.

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Do I need to give my consent to my child travelling in someone's vehicle?

Yes. If you are not offered one of these by the team manager or coach then please request one or download one from the *Pentathlon GB* website. *Pentathlon GB* staff are strongly encouraged not to give lifts to minors and never without an accompanying adult.

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Do I need to give my consent to my child staying overnight in connection with *Pentathlon GB* training or competitions?

Yes. If you are not offered one of these by the team manager or coach then please request one from them.

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Can I take photographs of children, including my own taking part in Modern Pentathlon?

Depends on purpose, venue, circumstances, etc..

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