

Responding to Questions and Queries about Safeguarding in Sport

If a member of the media contacts your organisation it is usually helpful to take a note of their name and contact details so you can go back to them with an answer, if you need to check any details you don't have to hand, or have any further questions for them. It is also worth checking any details with your organisation's or body's lead safeguarding expert so that you can confirm any facts.

It is important to make your safeguarding policy and procedures readily available and you should think about making this easy to find across any of your external communications channels

Here are a few helpful notes which could be used in external communications if asked about safeguarding procedures:

What is the NSPCC's CPSU?

The NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) provides advice to National Governing Bodies (NGBs) in sport and county sports partnerships. The CPSU provides these organisations with a safeguarding 'toolkit' with advice, training, and support on policies and procedures they can use to help keep children safe. For example, the CPSU can help those they work with to share safeguarding knowledge to staff and volunteers, and suggest how to identify and act if a child is at risk.

If you want to signpost to your work with the NSPCC's CPSU

The language above can be used for those that want to talk about how they work in partnership with the NSPCC's CPSU. You may want to consider putting this on your website near your safeguarding policy.

You could also the NSPCC Helpline number so that anyone who is worried or has a concern about a child's safety knows who to call for advice or guidance - 0800 800 5000.

If you are in the world of football signpost the NSPCC Football hotline, supported by the FA 0800 023 2642.

Signposting to your Safeguarding Policy

You should make sure that your safeguarding policy is easily accessible online and sign post to it at available opportunities. It is also advisable to include a link in External communications

If somebody wants to know what a sport is doing to ensure children are kept safe

You should make sure that your safeguarding policy is easily accessible online and sign post to it at available opportunities.

You can also explain what the organisation guidelines for recording and reporting concerns are, and also give the contact details of your organisation's child-protection or welfare officer.

Have a clear explanation of your policies and procedures available.

Make it clear that the reporting mechanisms you advocate and give examples

- If you think a child is in immediate danger of abuse, contact the police on 999.

- If there's no immediate danger and you're unsure of who to speak to, call the [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/08008005000) on [0808 800 5000](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/08008005000) for immediate advice
- If you are in the world of football signpost the NSPCC Football hotline, supported by the FA 0800 023 2642.

If somebody wants to know what advice is available for parents and carers to keep their children safe in sport:

You should provide any discrete advice you offer within your sport.

You can signpost to the advice offered by the NSPCC on the CPSU's website here <https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/related-information/information-for-parents-and-carers/>

Advice around responding to any concerns following the coverage of abuse within football

If you want to respond to any concerns that adults may understandably have following the coverage of abuse within sport, it might be useful to have a response ready that means you can respond to them quickly with information that helps them understand what they can do if they have further concerns.

Things you might want to consider including in any response are:

The revelations that are coming out about abuse have shaken the sports world and whilst substantial progress has been made, we can't be complacent in making sure children are safe when they are playing sport.

Focussing on the importance that child protection in X / NGB is taken incredibly seriously and explain that have put in place a series of robust procedures in place including X and Y.

You may wish to include that you have worked with the NSPCC's CPSU to develop your safeguarding policies and procedures.

Make clear you expect any organisation or individual to refer any allegation or suspicion of harm to a child to X.

Make clear that if anyone is worried about a child then they can speak to the NSPCC helpline confidentially for advice and support on 0800 800 5000. If a child is worried they can call Childline on 0800 1111.

Provide a link to your safeguarding policy and provide contact details for a member of your organisation who oversees your safeguarding work.

Further Information:

The CPSU is an essential part of the NSPCC and focuses on safeguarding in sport. The charity – NSPCC - has been responding to the emerging revelations in sport, and it is important to note the CPSU and NSPCC are one organisation who speak with one voice on child safeguarding issues.

You can follow what the NSPCC and CPSU is saying about Safeguarding in sport on the Nspcc_press twitter account or on the nspcc.org website. You also follow CPSU at www.twitter.com/TheCPSU.

If you have any further questions, contact your local NSPCC CPSU member who you normally work with.

The Police and the NSPCC would advise against discussing any ongoing investigations or details about individual cases because of the risk of both compromising ongoing investigations and disclosing potentially sensitive and confidential information that may put children or young people at risk.