

# EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY SPORTS UNION

## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

### SUMMARY

1. Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU) is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all persons in its care. It recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect vulnerable persons from harm, abuse and exploitation. Staff, members and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of children and vulnerable groups.
2. EUSU recognises that the welfare of its members must be a primary concern for all staff, volunteers and members. This policy has been produced to prevent/tackle any potential/current safeguarding issues, whether intentional or unintentional, direct or indirect, against its employees, members and volunteers.
3. This document outlines EUSU commitment to protecting vulnerable groups. These guidelines are based on the following principles:
  - The welfare of its members is the primary concern.
  - All members, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
  - Safeguarding of vulnerable groups is everyone's responsibility.
  - Vulnerable persons have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so.
  - Organisations shall work in partnership with its members and the University of Edinburgh to promote the welfare, health and development of vulnerable groups.

In line with the [University of Edinburgh's policy](#), EUSU assesses and mitigates risk towards children and vulnerable adults in three key ways:

- by assessing and managing risk;
- by providing robust procedures for reporting and managing concerns;
- by ensuring that all individuals undertaking regulated work with children or protected adults are members of the PVG Scheme.

## 1. Safeguarding Policy & Procedures

This document outlines EUSU's commitment to safeguarding vulnerable groups.

The following principles will serve as a guideline for all EUSU activity:

- Promoting the health and welfare of all vulnerable persons by providing opportunities for them to take part in sport safely.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of every child and vulnerable adult.
- Recruit, train, support and supervise its staff, members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves.
- Require staff, members and volunteers to adopt and abide by this Safeguarding Policy and these procedures.
- Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children in line with this Policy and these procedures as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Observe guidelines issued by SportScotland, UK Coaching and Scottish Disability Sport for the protection of children and vulnerable adults
- Make sure clear, simple and accessible information is available about abuse and where to go for help
- Ensure committee members, coaches and staff read and adhere to this guidance

This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

## 2. Guidance for committees and coaches

The following aims to provide some guidance surrounding what to do in the case of suspected abuse, harm or exploitation:

- In order to prevent the occurrence of any form of abuse all clubs must include a section in their Risk Assessment regarding the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.
- When dealing with abuse situations, consider and mitigate the risk to all parties involved.
- Respect the person, think about what is best for them and ensure that your actions pose no further risk.
- Understand that safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everybody's business.
- Everyone must accept that we are all accountable as individuals and clubs
- All individuals have the right to make their own decisions, if you believe an individual is "lacking capacity" to make a decision consult Appendix A.
- Where an activity is directly aimed at children or vulnerable adults those involved in the session (usually coaches) must have [applied to the PVG scheme](#) and received certification of this from Disclosure Scotland.
- Where an activity is directly aimed at children or vulnerable adults (e.g. a kids Easter camp) a risk assessment must be carried out which should include any coaches or volunteers that may be working with these groups.
- Some sports may require additional steps to be carried out by their NGB (National Governing Body) (e.g. implementation of a Child Protection Officer) therefore it is important to check with your relevant NGB regularly.
- In the case of suspected abuse, harm or exploitation this must be reported immediately and anonymously using the [following form](#)
- For guidance on who might be considered a vulnerable person or what might be considered abuse please refer to the [University of Edinburgh's policy](#).

If you require any further guidance or have any questions about the above please do not hesitate to get in touch with [Sports.Union@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Sports.Union@ed.ac.uk).

## **Appendix A:**

### **Capacity – Making Decisions (Ann Craft Trust, 2018)**

We make decisions every day, often without even realising, and may take this for granted. Some people can make every decision about their own lives. Some people can make some decisions and a small number of people cannot make any decisions. Being unable to make a decision is called “lacking capacity”.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) states that every individual has the right to make their own decisions and provides the framework for this to happen.

In sport and activity, you do not have to be an expert in assessing capacity but try to follow the 5 principles:

1. Assume that people can make decisions, unless it is proven that they cannot – if you have concerns about a person’s level of understanding attending one of your events you should check this with them and if applicable people supporting them.
2. Give people as much support as they need to make decisions - you may be involved in this, you might need to think about the way you communicate or provide information, you may be asked your opinion.
3. The right to make unwise decisions if you understand the implications – a person may want to play a contact sport even though they are unsteady on their feet. If they understand the implications then consider how risks can be minimised so they do not miss out, for example by using protective sports equipment.
4. Best Interests - If someone is not able to make a decision, then the people helping them must only make decisions in their ‘best interests’. This means that the decision must be what is best for the person, not for anyone else. If someone was making a decision on your behalf, you would want it to reflect the decision you would make if you were able to.
5. If someone is having a decision made for them, then find the least restrictive way of doing what needs to be done.