

Safeguarding
Annual Report 2025



Winter 2025

Weightlifting Wales



Annual Safeguarding Report

November 2025

The following is an overview of the work WW have carried out in the area of Safeguarding throughout 2025; a brief outline of WW's progress, activity, and the collaborative work it has completed in this time.

Weightlifting Wales is committed to safeguarding people participating in the sport, it is vital that everyone involved in Weightlifting Wales, including coaches, volunteers and staff, are aware of their duty to safeguard the interest of children, young people and adults at risk.

Weightlifting Wales aspires for the sport to be provided in an environment where individuals feel able to raise concerns and where poor practice and inappropriate behaviour can be openly challenged. The National Governing Body is facilitating this by championing the promotion of children's welfare and providing access to advice and training to help support members, coaches, parents, clubs and volunteers to understand their safeguarding, responsibilities.

The development of safeguarding standards, policies and procedures are important to support both Weightlifting Wales and clubs and members, to fulfil their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their care and ensure a consistent and best practice approach across the sport.

Simon Roach – Safeguarding Lead

Facts & Figures

- 293 Current members in Wales
- 79 Current members under the age of 18 years old
- 39 Current members with a Coach / Technical Official / Combined License
- 11 Licensed Clubs
- 12 Current Club Welfare Officers
- 47 current members with a relevant Safeguarding Course in place
- 6 members of staff
- 2 Designated Safeguarding Officers
- 5 Board Members including a Safeguarding Champion, with an election for an additional 2 members taking place in December 2025

Compliance

- All coaches who attend WW events are required to have in place a Level 2 Coaching Qualification, an enhanced DBS, a valid BWL Coaching License, and to have completed the relevant Safeguarding training.
- Technical Officials are required to have in place a valid Technical Official certificate, an enhanced DBS, a valid Technical Official License, and to have completed the relevant Safeguarding training.
- All Clubs must meet certain criteria to meet the standard of a Licensed Club and are asked to sign a Service Level agreement, outlining specifically, the expectations of a WW Club, regarding Club commitment to Safeguarding in their facility.
- All Clubs must have in place a Club Welfare Officer who has completed the relevant Safeguarding training.
- All WW staff must have an enhanced DBS in place, and complete basic safeguarding training. Staff will also undergo further training specific to their role within WW.
- All Directors are to have completed Safeguarding training.
- Annual review of Safeguarding Policy and Procedures has been completed

Case Management

The Case Management Group, also known as the Safeguarding Group, is specifically designed to deal with serious safeguarding concerns brought to the attention of WW. The Terms of Reference for the group were updated in 2024.

Group composition:

Ceri Wynne – Director & Safeguarding Champion

Ross Miller – Director

Joanne Calvino – Director

Simon Roach – Lead Safeguarding Officer

An independent expert can be invited as and when required.

The Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Officers oversee the reviewing and monitoring of Safeguarding policies and procedures, ensure good record keeping and monitoring of reports, and may discuss how to proceed with issues arising in relation to safeguarding reports received, prior to involving the Case Management Group.

Collaborations

- British Weight Lifting
- Local Authorities (Social services, Lead Designated Safeguarding Officers)
- The NSPCC
- Sport Wales
- The Child Protection in Sport Unit
- The Welsh Sport Association (including the DBS service)
- The Ann Craft Trust
- Legal Advisors
- DBS Advisors

Training

Staff have undergone basic safeguarding training and also complete more specific training in relation to their role within WW.

The Lead Safeguarding Officer continues to attend regular, in-person, safeguarding forums hosted at the Sport Wales National Centre in Cardiff.

100% of the Directors have completed Safeguarding training.

The host provider for the Safeguarding and Protecting Children essential course for coaches, club welfare officers and officials, has changed from the Child Protection in Sport Unit and the NSPCC, to

UK Coaching. The Ann Craft Trust offer Adult Safeguarding courses specifically for those who work or volunteer in sport.

Training and education opportunities are regularly promoted to WW Clubs.

WW Policy Updates:

- A trial of removing the weigh-in process for under 12's competitors and scoring them on their technical points is currently in motion with the view to adopt this into our main safeguarding policy in early 2026. U'17s who weigh over or under their entered category will still compete in the competition as usual, without being removed and recorded as a guest lifter, to avoid any pressure for under 18's to make weight on the day of competition.

Communication:

WW operate a social media plan, and this includes a minimum of two safeguarding-focused posts per month, updating the website with relevant safeguarding information, as well joining any safeguarding related campaigns on social media, such as Keeping Sport Safe Week and Adult Safeguarding Week. We are now aiming to put some more focus on athlete wellbeing and positive steps that clubs, coaches and parents can take to promote a healthy and safe culture within Weightlifting.

Record Keeping:

WW continue to record and monitor reports received in relation to Safeguarding.

Key Challenges that WW face:

An on-going challenge for WW is the risk that work in other important areas of business may be put on hold if/when serious matters arise.

Final Word:

The past few years have seen a lot of development and positive progress in safeguarding within Weightlifting Wales. We continue to monitor our policies and procedures, make changes where we see it to be beneficial or necessary for the wellbeing of members, and embed a safe culture for all those who participate in our sport.