Wales Weightlifting Federation CIC

Safeguarding

Annual Report

2026



NOVEMBER 2026

https://weightlifting.wales/

WEIGHTLIFTING WALES
CODI PWYSAU CYMRU

Annual Safeguarding Report

November 2026

The following is an overview of the work Weightlifting Wales (WW) have carried out in the area of Safeguarding throughout 2026; including a brief outline of WW's progress, activity, and the collaborative work it has completed in this time.

At Weightlifting Wales, we are committed to safeguarding everyone involved in our sport, ensuring people can participate in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment, where they are treated with dignity and respect and are able to enjoy their experience free from abuse, harm, discrimination or neglect.

"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 its clubs and members, in order 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 for all participants. 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 within their roles."

Simon Roach – Safeguarding Lead

Facts & Figures

- **252 Current members in Wales**
- **65 Current members under the age of 18 years old**
- **69 Current members with a Coach / Technical Official / Combined qualification**
- **15 Licensed Clubs**
- **48 current members with a relevant Safeguarding Course in place**
- **6 members of staff**
- **2 Designated Safeguarding Officers**
- **7 Board Members including a Safeguarding Champion, with an election for an additional board member taking place in 2026 AGM**

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 Level 2 online course completion 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 also undergo further training specific to their role within WW.**

- **All Board Directors are to have completed Safeguarding training.**

- **Annual review of Safeguarding Policy and Procedures has been completed.**

Case Management

- **The Safeguarding Case Management Group, also known as the Safeguarding Group, is specifically designed to be responsible for dealing with safeguarding concerns as well as monitoring and improving safeguarding procedures. The Terms of Reference for the group were reviewed this year and can be publicly viewable from the governance page of our website:**
  https://d2n00kviw8ahc6.cloudfront.net/docs/uploads/Safeguarding-Case-Management-Group-TOR.pdf

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.

A safeguarding case procedure document is formally in place and followed by the WW safeguarding group when they are subject to dealing with safeguarding concerns and incidents. A review is currently being taken place to include adult safeguarding specific procedures.

We have a Safeguarding Disciplinary Guidelines and Process in place internally subject to a review, as well as an anti-bullying policy as a public organisational policy for volunteers and members.

Collaborations

- **British Weight Lifting**
- **Local Authorities (Social services, Lead Designated Safeguarding Officers)**
- **Welsh County Safeguarding Teams**
- **NSPCC Sport**
- **Sport Wales**
- **The Welsh Sport Association (including the Vibrant Nation DBS service)**
- **Ann Craft Trust (Adult Safeguarding)**
- **Legal Advisors**
- **DBS Advisors**

Training

Some staff have undergone different areas of safeguarding training that are specifically linked in to their role within WW. Organisational training plans in place to ensure tracking of training being undertaken and helping identify any gaps.

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

All of the Board Directors within the Safeguarding Case Management Group have completed Safeguarding training.

The UK Coaching Safeguarding and Protecting Children essential course (in collaboration with NSPCC Sport) remains the mandatory course for all licensed coaches and welfare officers to take in order to obtain their required certification.

The Ann Craft Trust offer Adult Safeguarding courses specifically for those who work or volunteer in sport, which is something to be integrated more within WW in 2027.

Training and education opportunities are regularly promoted to WW Clubs.

WW Updates

- **A review and approval process has been undertaken for our main Safeguarding Policy. This has included an update with formally adopting the removal of the weigh-in process for under 12s competitors at WW events following board approval and the trial period ending. The rule for under 17s who weigh over or under their entered category at WW events has been included in the policy too which will mean they 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.**
- **The organisation has been able to demonstrate that safeguarding matters is being linked to our equality, diversity and inclusion action plans and is being addressed and implemented throughout our updated equality policy through guidance within our Moving to Inclusion Framework developments.**
- **Further linked policy reviews have been undertaken, including Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy, and Complaints Policy.**
- **All Code of Conducts were updated and communicated out at the start of 2026 in line with British Weight Lifting, that covered all representatives and participants of WW.**
- **DBS checks conducted by WW are all in line with latest legislation rules brought in from September.**

Communication

WW operates 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. More emphasis has been put on developing advice and assets related to a focus more on athlete wellbeing and positive steps that clubs, coaches and parents can take to promote a healthy and safe culture within Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting.

Record Keeping

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

Key Future Plans for WW face

- **Consider how Adult Safeguarding training can be further embedded across clubs during 2027.**
- **Create a feedback mechanism through club welfare officers and share insight from within relevant forums within the sports sector.**
- **Early planning underway for a Club Safeguarding Forum, either in collaboration with BWL or delivered directly by WW depending on club interest.**
- **Discussions ongoing with the Board around the most appropriate structure for athlete and youth voice. Options include a non-voting Athlete Representative Director as an additional Board member and/or an Athlete or wider Engagement Group. A wider group could include athletes, U18s, coaches, Technical Officials and club representatives. Any group established would support consultation across a range of WW matters, including safeguarding.**
- **A new Club Safeguarding Package to be distributed to affiliated clubs annually which highlights key safeguarding information and resources.**
- **Incorporating adult Safeguarding progressions throughout WW, such as – communications, training, volunteer guidance, reference point to related policies and procedures, dedicated adult safeguarding website page.**
- **Strengthen safeguarding partnerships with our key partners within the sector.**

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.