



Angling Trust

PD84 – AT Safeguarding Adults Policy

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1. POLICY STATEMENT AND SCOPE

As the National Governing Body, the Angling Trust (AT) acknowledges its statutory, ethical, and moral duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all adults involved in AT activities, member clubs, fisheries, and events in England. We are committed to ensuring their safety, respecting their rights, and prioritising the welfare of everyone involved in angling.

AT's safeguarding processes operate within a multi-agency framework, engaging with a broader network of professionals to effectively protect adults and adults at risk in angling.

This policy applies to all AT staff, volunteers, contractors, sponsors, suppliers, members, coaches, participants, event organisers, fisheries, and anglers associated with AT and its partners. Non-compliance may lead to disciplinary actions, referrals to safeguarding agencies, or legal action.

Those outside AT or its partner organisations may use AT policies as best practice guidance but are not eligible for AT safeguarding training.

2. DEFINITION OF 'ADULT AT RISK'

This policy applies to all adults, which is anyone over the age of 18, but we must be aware of the increased vulnerability that comes with being defined as an adult at risk which is:

An individual aged 18 years and over who: (a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and; (b) is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and; (c) as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect (Care Act 2014). Please see <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/> for more information.

The Angling Trust recognises that an individual's health, well-being, abilities, disabilities, and care needs can influence their resilience. At various times in their lives, adults may become vulnerable or at risk. Vulnerability exists on a continuum, and as such, the Angling Trust is committed to fostering a culture of support, inclusivity, and protection for all individuals.

3. 6 PRINCIPLES OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING

AT and all those in scope of this policy are expected to adhere to the 6 Principles of Adult Safeguarding:

- Empowerment: *People are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.*
- Partnership: *Services offer local solutions through working closely with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.*
- Protection: *Support and protection for those in greatest need.*
- Prevention: *It is better to take action before harm occurs*
- Accountability: *Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding*
- Proportionality: *The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.*

3.1 Wellbeing Principle

Further to the Adult Safeguarding principles, AT are committed to prioritising adults’ safety, dignity, and well-being—mental, physical, and social—ensuring actions are proportionate, person-centred, and respectful of individual autonomy and overall wellbeing.

4. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Angling Trust

As a Sport England-recognised National Governing Body, the Angling Trust promotes its safeguarding policies as a best-practice guide for member clubs, fisheries, and associated organisations. The Angling Trust owns this policy and oversees its dissemination and implementation across England. The Angling Trust provides training and education on safeguarding member clubs and fisheries working with children, ensuring roles and responsibilities are clear. Dedicated staff offer advice and guidance on safeguarding concerns for members and the wider angling community.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/Lead Safeguarding Officer (LSO) is responsible for maintaining high safeguarding standards across member organisations. They ensure concerns are addressed appropriately, efficiently, and in line with statutory requirements. Please note the AT safeguarding team do not provide an emergency response. Please phone 999, 111 or adult social care in your area for an urgent response.

Key Contacts:

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Di Murray	safeguarding@anglingtrust.net	07730 765714
Deputy DSL	Stuart Sharp	safeguarding@anglingtrust.net	07720 974 533

The Angling Trust’s Case Management Group (CMG) reviews concerns every six weeks. The DSL may consult CMG members outside the regular meetings if needed but retains the authority to respond to concerns independently. The CMG includes the DSL, CEO, Governance Manager, Head of Delivery, Safeguarding Board Member, an LSO from another NGB, an external safeguarding professional, and a department head if required. Meetings require at least one external professional, the DSL, and either the Welfare and Safety Lead Director or an AT staff member to proceed.

For concerns that do not meet the threshold for statutory agency referrals but relate to welfare or safety, the Angling Trust has a responsibility to act within its authority to find a resolution.

4.2 Statutory agencies

Angling Trust recognises the role of statutory agencies in the safeguarding of adults within the sport of angling. Statutory agencies include the police and adult social care. AT are committed to following statutory procedures relating to safeguarding and referring to the individual agencies’ expertise on safeguarding matters. AT acknowledges that different local authority statutory agencies may differ in guidance and will provide as best as is reasonably practicable a consistent approach with this in mind. Whilst it does not have statutory powers, the Ann Craft Trust are a leading authority on

safeguarding adults in the UK and AT may seek their guidance on safeguarding matters affecting adults.

Please contact the Ann Craft Trust (ACT) using the contact details below if you have concerns/queries and AT staff are not available.

(ACT)	0115 951 5400	ann-craft trust@nottingham.ac.uk	Online Report Tool
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Concerns about abuse, harm, or inappropriate conduct should be reported to the appropriate agency and the AT safeguarding team. However, it is not AT's role to determine if harm or abuse has occurred. The DSL will consult with relevant agencies and support organisations during their investigation. When concerns meet the threshold for statutory agency involvement, their processes must be completed before internal investigations by member clubs, fisheries, or AT proceed, to ensure there is no interference with police or social care enquiries.

4.3 Members/Clubs/Fisheries/Coaches and associations

As the National Governing Body, all individuals and organisations involved with the Angling Trust—such as members, clubs, fisheries, coaches, and event organisers—must adhere to the Angling Trust safeguarding policies, procedures, and guidance. These policies may also be adopted as their own using the Policy Statement available on our website. Clubs, fisheries, and organisations should note that while the Angling Trust Safeguarding Team is available for guidance, our jurisdiction is limited for non-members, leaving responsibility with the respective club, fishery, or organisation.

Non-member clubs, fisheries, coaches, and event organizers must still fulfil statutory safeguarding responsibilities. The Angling Trust Safeguarding Lead can offer guidance on meeting minimum standards.

Member clubs and fisheries must appoint a Welfare Officer (WO) known to their members and the Angling Trust even if all members are adults. This officer ensures compliance with safeguarding policies, handles concerns, and works with the AT DSL for guidance/support. Welfare Officers are not expected to handle investigations independently. WO's must be DBS-checked through the Angling Trust, complete Safe Clubs Training, and disseminate updates with members. They will also receive ongoing training for their role.

5. MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL (NOTHING ABOUT ME, WITHOUT ME)

AT are also committed to the shift towards Making Safeguarding Personal, which involves engaging the person in conversations about how best to respond to their situation, ensuring they have control over decisions that affect their safety and well-being. The person's views, wishes, and beliefs must be considered when deciding how to support them. There are often multiple ways to prevent harm and working with the individual helps identify the best solution. If someone struggles to express their wishes, they can be supported by an advocate, such as a trusted family member or a professional from a third-sector organisation.

6. MENTAL CAPACITY AND DECISION MAKING

Adults at risk have the right to make their own decisions, even if others consider them unwise, unless they lack the mental capacity to do so (Mental Capacity Act 2005). Safeguarding must prioritise their autonomy while recognising situations where capacity may be impaired.

Mental capacity refers to the ability to make a decision at the time it is needed. Capacity can fluctuate due to factors like disability, mental health needs, brain injury, illness, or temporary conditions such as medication effects.

Most adults can make their own decisions with appropriate support, but some adults may require help to understand choices or make simple decisions. A small number cannot make decisions and require others to act in their best interests.

6.1 Key Principles for Decision-Making

To make a decision, a person must be able to:

- Understand relevant information.
- Retain the information long enough to make a decision.
- Weigh the information to consider options.
- Communicate their decision.

If anyone in scope of this policy encounters an adult who may struggle with decision-making, concerns must be referred to adult social care or health professionals for proper assessment.

AT are committed to giving adults as much ownership as possible in safeguarding decisions, with their consent sought to share or act on information. However, AT is committed to safeguarding everyone and may have to share concerns without their consent/go against a decision made. Please see Mental Capacity, Decision Making and Consent guidance for more information.

7. SAFER RECRUITMENT

The Angling Trust operates in line with statutory guidance to ensure that appropriate procedures are implemented in the recruitment of staff and volunteers to assess their eligibility to work with individuals outlined in the Vulnerable groups Act 2006. This process is utilised to highlight and reject individuals who are unsuitable for roles working with adults or adults at risk (paid or volunteer). It is an expectation all those in scope of this policy utilise Safer Recruitment practices in vetting individuals before allowing them to work or volunteer with any adults.

Due to different eligibility criteria for Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for working with adults in Sport compared to children, AT may choose to use basic checks to undergo some level of criminal record screening. AT will use other safer recruitment practices to ensure appropriate vetting of individuals and reserve the right to not hire individuals based on the outcomes of the Safer Recruitment Process.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Angling Trust has a Code of Conduct that applies unequivocally to all those in scope of this policy. It is an expectation those in scope of this policy are familiar with this document and act in accordance with the policy at all times. Failure to comply with this policy and other AT related policies and procedures could result in a disciplinary/grievance process being followed, referrals to external safeguarding partner agencies or legal action.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Angling Trust are committed to ongoing evaluation of safeguarding practices to ensure the highest standard of protection. Practices will be routinely reviewed as a dynamic measure and as a response to concerns. The DSL will report to the Angling Trust board on a quarterly basis and liaise regularly with Ann Craft Trust and Sport England’s safeguarding contractor Lime Culture. The Angling Trust will be committed to stay abreast of ongoing developments of safeguarding in sport and the Angling Trust wishes to develop a listening culture therefore welcoming collaborative learning from all AT members and associates in order to improve.

10. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE

Please see the safeguarding policies and guidance area of our website for more information.

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