



Angling Trust

PD85 – AT Safeguarding Children Policy

CONTENTS

1. POLICY STATEMENT AND SCOPE	3
2. DEFINITION OF CHILD	3
3. ANGLING TRUST PRINCIPLES	3
4. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	3
4.1 Angling Trust	3
4.2 Statutory agencies.....	4
4.3 Members/Clubs/Fisheries/Coaches and associations	4
5. SAFER RECRUITMENT	5
6. CODE OF CONDUCT	5
7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	5
8. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE (NOT EXHAUSTIVE).....	5

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 children (under 18) involved in AT activities, member clubs, fisheries, and events in England. We are committed to ensuring their safety, respecting their rights, and prioritizing 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 children in angling.

This policy applies to all AT staff, volunteers, contractors, sponsors, suppliers, members, coaches, participants, event organizers, 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 organizations may use AT policies as best practice guidance but are not eligible for AT safeguarding training.

2. DEFINITION OF CHILD

A child is anyone that is under the age of 18 years old. Even if they are living independently or supporting themselves independently, they are entitled to the same levels of protection (Department of Education 2023). This policy and other guidance may also use the term 'young people' or 'young person' and for the purpose of this and all other Angling Trust policies, this also means anyone under the age of 18 years old. Please see <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/children-the-law> for more information.

3. ANGLING TRUST PRINCIPLES

The following is a list of general principles that AT will apply in its work to safeguard and protect children. The expectation is that these will be shared by all those involved with the Angling Trust.

- Safeguarding is **everyone's** responsibility
- The welfare and safety of children is of paramount importance
- **Everyone** regardless of their age, culture, disability, sex, gender reassignment, language, race, nationality, religious belief, sexual identity, sexual orientation have the right to protection from abuse and harm
- All concerns, instances of poor practice or allegations will be followed up swiftly, appropriately and taken seriously
- We will strive to create a '**Speak Out**' culture, where everyone is empowered to raise concerns with confidence without fear of retribution.
- The rights, dignity and views of children are always respected but balanced with the need to ensure their safety
- We will strive to create a **culture of collaborative learning** for safeguarding across angling in order to foster positive and safe practice, so everyone can enjoy the sport freely.

4. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Angling Trust

As a Sport England-recognized National Governing Body, the Angling Trust promotes its safeguarding policy as a best-practice guide for member clubs, fisheries, and associated organizations. The Angling Trust owns this policy and oversees its dissemination and implementation across England. The Angling Trust provides training and education on safeguarding to 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 organizations. They ensure concerns are addressed appropriately, efficiently, and in line with statutory requirements. Please note AT safeguarding team are not emergency 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 Safeguarding Board Member 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 recognizes the role of statutory agencies in the safeguarding of children within the sport of angling. Statutory agencies include the police, children’s social care – sometimes called children’s services, designated officers – also known as LADOs (Local Authority Designated Officers), multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASH) and the NSPCC. 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.

Please contact the NSPCC using below methods if you have concerns/queries and AT staff are not available.

NSPCC	0808 800 5000	help@NSPCC.org.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 organizations 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, ensuring no interference with police or social care inquiries.

4.3 Members/Clubs/Fisheries/Coaches and associations

As the National Governing Body, all individuals and organizations involved with the Angling Trust—such as members, clubs, fisheries, coaches, and event organizers—must adhere to its 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 organizations 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 organization.

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. 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. 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 children as per the Vulnerable groups Act 2006. This process is utilised to highlight and reject individuals who are unsuitable for roles working with young people (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 children.

This means where necessary, individuals paid or volunteer in a role with the Angling Trust will undergo Criminal Record Checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The Angling Trust will also 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.

6. 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.

7. 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 the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit and Sport England's safeguarding contractor Lime Culture. The Angling Trust will be committed to stay abreast of ongoing developments in the world of safeguarding and 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.

8. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE

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

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