



S17

WHISTLEBLOWING GUIDANCE – SAFEGUARDING

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document must be read in conjunction with the **Safeguarding Code and the Safeguarding Policy (Children & Young People) or Safeguarding Adults Policy**. Whilst these documents fully outline England Boxing's (EB's) stance with regard to reporting a safeguarding concern, this document provides guidance on the recommended practice and support available when whistleblowing.

2. Reporting Concerns

- 2.1. It is acknowledged that feelings generated by the discovery that a participant has abused, or may be abusing a **child, young person or adult at risk** will raise concern amongst other coaches or volunteers, particularly in relation to the inherent difficulties in reporting such matters.
- 2.2. It is important, however, that concerns for the welfare of any **child, young person or adult at risk** arising from poor practice, abuse or harassment by a coach, volunteer, peer or any participant should be reported immediately.
- 2.3. The welfare of the **child, young person or adult at risk** must always be of paramount importance and you should ensure someone takes immediate steps to safeguard them from a position of harm or potential harm.
- 2.4. If a participant becomes aware of abuse or potential abuse, they **must** inform an appropriate person, in confidence if necessary. That person could be a Club Welfare Officer (CWO), Regional Welfare Officer (RWO) or EB's Compliance & Safeguarding Manager (CSM).
- 2.5. All information received and discussed will be treated in confidence and only shared with those individuals within EB who will be able to manage and support a resolution to the concern.
- 2.6. In cases where you are required to take immediate steps regarding serious incidents of abuse, or you do not feel able to disclose your concerns to any or all of EB's Welfare Officers or EB staff, you should contact the Police, Local Children's Services or the NSPCC. All these agencies are experienced in such matters and you can be confident that the concerns will be addressed in a professional way.
- 2.7. If in the event that you feel you are only able to disclose your concerns anonymously, you are urged to contact any of the agencies named, or the CSM via safeguarding@englandboxing.org providing as much detail as possible to assist these organisations in assessing the risk posed by the concern.

2.8. Referrals can also be made via the [Safeguarding Reporting Form](#) on the EB website.

2.9. **Remember – doing nothing is not an option within EB's [Safeguarding Code](#).**

3. Supervision & Support for Staff & Volunteers Involved in Whistleblowing

- 3.1. England Boxing assures participants and third parties that it will fully support and protect anyone who, in good faith, reports their concerns that someone may pose a risk to children, young people or adults at risk.
- 3.2. We will also ensure that supervision and support is available both during and following an incident or allegation.
- 3.3. The first person within a club to consider for support is the CWO. This officer should whenever possible be on hand to offer help and advice at this difficult time. The CWO may draw on the assistance of the RWO or EB, whose roles are to provide help and assistance in this difficult area. All these officers form a team who, through working together will support you.
- 3.4. The benefit of a supportive club committee cannot be understated, as on many occasions there is expertise and prior training within this group to support participants.
- 3.5. In the most serious and appropriate cases, it may be possible to access counselling or support services via [statutory agencies, or through local and national charities as signposted on EB's \[Wellbeing webpages\]\(#\)](#).
- 3.6. In any event, you will not be expected to deal with this alone and you should always seek help and advice from the network of Welfare Officers within EB. Do not forget that the CSM is available to advise and help at any time.

4. Not sure what to do?

- 4.1. Independent advice can be obtained by contacting:
 - a. NSPCC Help Line on 0800 800 500 or help@NSPCC.org.uk; or
 - b. Protect on 0203 117 2520 or [webform](#).