



UNITED TWIRL ENGLAND (UTE)

COMBINED SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Statement

United Twirl England (UTE) is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that the welfare of the child is paramount at all times.

This policy aligns with:

- *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)*
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children*
- *NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Standards*
- UK safeguarding legislation

UTE ensures all children:

- Are safe, protected, and listened to
- Experience sport in a positive, child-centred environment
- Are protected from abuse both within and outside sport

As part of our safeguarding policy, UTE will

- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other Safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in UTE. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

safe@unitedtwirlengland.org

UTE SAFEGUARDING POLICY V2 | APRIL 2026



Scope

This policy applies to:

- All UTE clubs, competitions, training, and events
- All individuals involved, including:
 - Coaches and assistant coaches
 - Volunteers and officials
 - Safeguarding Leads
 - Committee members
 - Parents and carers

It applies at all times, including:

- Training sessions
- Competitions
- Travel and online environments

Key Safeguarding Principles

UTE adopts the following core principles:

- The child's welfare is paramount
- All children have equal rights to protection
- Safeguarding applies inside and outside sport
- Early identification and action are essential
- Concerns must always be acted upon, not ignored

UTE follows CPSU principles that:

- Risk to children must always be assessed and managed
- Investigations prioritise child safety over all other factor



Safer Recruitment & DBS Requirements

UTE operates robust safer recruitment procedures in line with KCSIE.

DBS Checks (Mandatory)

All adults working with children must:

- Hold an Enhanced DBS check with Children's Barred List
- Be verified before starting regulated activity

No individual may work unsupervised without clearance.

DBS Update Service (Mandatory Requirement)

All relevant adults must:

- Be registered on the DBS Update Service
- Maintain continuous subscription
- Consent to regular status checks

Failure to comply may result in:

- Suspension from duties
- Removal from regulated activity

Suitability & Supervision

- Individuals without DBS clearance must be fully supervised at all times
- UTE will prevent the deployment of unsuitable individuals

Safeguarding Training Requirements

Mandatory Training

All coaches, safeguarding leads, and relevant personnel must:

- Complete NSPCC Safeguarding & Protecting Children in Sport training
- Complete basic safeguarding training before working with children

Safeguarding Leads

Must additionally:

- Complete NSPCC Safeguarding & Protecting Children in Sport training
- Undertake regular refresher training

Ongoing Awareness

UTE ensures:

- Continuous safeguarding education
- Clear understanding of how to recognise abuse and respond



Safeguarding Structure & Responsibilities

UTE operates a structured safeguarding system:

Roles

- National Safeguarding Lead
- Area/Regional Safeguarding Officers
- Club Safeguarding Officers

Key Responsibilities

Safeguarding Officers must:

- Act as first point of contact
- Record and report concerns
- Liaise with statutory agencies
- Ensure compliance across clubs

Behaviour Management

UTE promotes a positive and child-centred approach to behaviour management. All behaviour should be addressed in a calm, respectful, and proportionate manner, focusing on the behaviour rather than the individual.

Where behaviour is inappropriate:

- A verbal reprimand should be used as the first response
- Clear guidance and expectations should be reinforced

Under no circumstances should any adult:

- Use physical punishment of any kind (e.g. hitting, pushing, or restraining as a sanction)
- Use aggressive, humiliating, or degrading behaviour or language

Persistent or serious behaviour concerns should be reported to the Club Safeguarding Officer and managed in line with safeguarding procedures.



Recognising Abuse

UTE recognises the following types of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Bullying (including online)

Indicators may include:

- Behavioural changes
- Injuries or distress
- Disclosure from a child

UTE emphasises:

It is not your role to decide if abuse is occurring, **but it is your responsibility to act**



Safeguarding Procedures & Reporting

Duty to Report

All adults must:

- Report concerns immediately
- Never ignore or delay action
- Never promise confidentiality

Reporting Process

Concerns must be reported to:

1. Club Safeguarding Officer
2. Area/UTE Safeguarding Lead

If necessary:

- Children's Social Care
- Police
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Immediate Risk

If a child is in immediate danger:

- Contact emergency services immediately

Recording

All concerns must be:

- Recorded using standard safeguarding forms
- Accurate and factual
- Stored securely

UTE requires consistent record keeping across all clubs

Confidentiality & Information Sharing

UTE follows KCSIE guidance:

- Information shared on a **need-to-know basis**
- Safeguarding concerns override confidentiality
- GDPR is followed appropriately

Code of Conduct & Safe Practice

All adults must:

- Act as positive role models
- Maintain professional boundaries
- Avoid being alone with children unnecessarily
- Never engage in inappropriate relationships

All members must:

- Promote respect, equality, and inclusion
- Challenge bullying and poor behaviour



Partnership Working

UTE works in partnership with:

- Children's Social Care
- Police
- NSPCC
- Local safeguarding boards

UTE recognises statutory agencies' duty to protect children

Monitoring, Review & Compliance

- Policy reviewed **annually or upon legislative change**
- Regular audits of:
 - DBS compliance
 - Safeguarding records
- Non-compliance may result in:
 - Disciplinary action
 - Removal from UTE

Key Safeguarding Commitments

UTE commits to:

- Promoting children's safety and wellbeing
- Providing clear procedures and accountability
- Ensuring all staff are trained and vetted
- Taking all concerns seriously and acting promptly

Policy Approval

This policy is:

- Approved by United Twirl England
- Mandatory for all clubs and members