

Safeguarding Guidance for Livestreaming Activities (Coaches)

British Wrestling is aware that coaches may want to stay in contact with their clubs and athletes to keep them engaged through these unprecedented times. This can take form of circuit training sessions, modified coaching sessions etc. and this message is designed to help safeguard coaches and their athletes to ensure British Wrestling continues to put appropriate measures in place for a safe sport.

This guidance is intended to supplement existing policies and procedures and reinforce good coaching practices; it is adapted from recently published article by the Lawn Tennis Association and other papers for the education sector which were provided by the NSPCC and Department for Education.

Your Behaviour

Ensure you adhere to the British Wrestling Codes of Conduct, Ethics and Responsibilities and always reinforce professional boundaries.

You should not give children your personal contact details (such as your personal mobile, personal email or social media details) or communicate with them privately unless this is with parental permission and limited to wrestling related matters.

Ensure you are not overly familiar with children and never make inappropriate jokes or comments to or around them. Do not send messages which end with kisses (“xx”) and do not add, follow or interact with children on your personal social media account.

Finding a Livestreaming Platform

Use an appropriate and professional platform, e.g. Zoom, or Skype for your sessions.

To help keep professional boundaries, use your coaching or club Email address to create an account on livestreaming platforms. If you already have an account on a livestreaming platform that uses your personal email, you should create a second one using your coaching email.

Familiarise yourself with the platforms’ privacy settings and know how to report any offensive or abusive content

Where Will the Session Take Place?

Coaches should be in a neutral area where nothing personal or inappropriate can be seen or heard in the background. Young people should also be in a safe and appropriate environment with no inappropriate objects/information available.

Make sure any other adults or children in your household know when you will be livestreaming to ensure they are aware of the activity and reduce the chance of disruption.

Parental Involvement and Consent

You should obtain parental consent in writing for their child to participate in a livestreaming session.

If your current club procedures do not already cover this, you should ask parents/carers to provide you with important information like emergency contact details and any medical conditions or disabilities you should be aware of.

This can be captured on the consent form - Parental Consent for British Wrestling Activities.

All communication must go through parents/carers directly; any communication that is to be sent to children must have the parents/carers copied in.

Explain who you will share information with and when you may not be able to keep information confidential (for example, in the event of a safeguarding concern).

Parents/carers must be aware of what their children are being asked to do during sessions, including any websites they will be asked to access, be clear who their child is going to interact with online.

Any 1-2-1 sessions with children must involve the parents/carers being able to supervise their child, or alternatively, having another coach/member of staff could be present. This supervision would not necessarily require the parents to be in the same room if they are able to check in on the session.

The session should take place at an appropriate time that has been agreed with the parents/carers.

Ground rules

Develop a set of ground rules for sessions that children and their parents/carers sign up to, they should include:

- the expected behaviour of children and parents/carers during sessions
- that private information will not be shared
- how and when to ask questions during a session
- breaks during the session
- what to do if the session needs to end early due to emergency
- what you will do should a safeguarding issue arise or become known about

Images

You should get consent from parents/carers and child to take and use any images of the child (if you do not already have their consent).

Ensure that any images used to do not allow for the identification of the child, e.g. phone number, email, address, school details etc.

Logging Information

You should keep a record of any livestreaming sessions with children. Include the following:

- the date, time and place
- the reason for the contact
- a summary of the activity or discussion

- any issues that came up

Safeguarding Concerns

Ensure that everyone knows that if they have any safeguarding concerns, they can report this online to the Club Welfare Officer or directly to the Lead Safeguarding Officer by Email on safeguarding@britishwrestling.org or by phone on 07977201505 and to the police in an emergency.

Examples of concerns which might arise through livestreaming sessions include:

- you see or hear something worrying during a session
- a child discloses abuse during a session
- inappropriate behaviour or messages are used/sent during or from outside of a session