BRITISH WRESTLING

ONLINE SAFETY AND COMMUNICATION POLICY

PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

Club name:
(the "**Club**") strives to ensure that everyone, with a focus on all children (anyone under 18) and adults at risk, are safeguarded from abuse and have an enjoyable wrestling experience.

This document sets out how we use the internet and social media, and the procedures for doing so. It also outlines expectations for online behaviour and communication with children and adults at risk.

The principles in this policy apply no matter which current or future technology is used.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect everyone with a focus on children and adults at risk involved with our organisation and who make use of technology (such as mobile phones, tablets, games consoles and the Internet).
- Provide staff, coaches and volunteers with policy and procedure information regarding online safety and inform them how to respond to incidents.
- Ensure our organisation operates within the law regarding how we behave online.

This policy applies to all staff, coaches, volunteers, participants, parents/carers and any other individuals associated with the Club.

WE RECOGNISE THAT:

The online world provides everyone with many opportunities; However, it can also present risks and challenges.

We have a duty to ensure that all children and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online.

We have a responsibility to keep children safe online whether or not they're using our network and devices.

All children and adults, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Working in partnership with children and adults, their parents, carers, and other organisations is essential in helping them to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

WE WILL SEEK TO KEEP CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK SAFE BY:

- Understanding the safety aspects including what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour for staff, coaches, volunteers, and all wrestlers including children and adults at risk when using website, social media, apps and other forms of digital communication.
- Being aware that it doesn't matter what device is being used for digital interaction, but that the same safety aspects apply whether it is a computer, mobile phone, or game console.
- When using social media or video conferencing platforms (including live streaming), ensure that we adhere to relevant legislation and good practice.
- Ensuring the person managing our organisation's online presence is suitably trained and experienced.
- Providing staff with policy and procedure information regarding online safety and inform them of how to respond to incidents.

MANAGING OUR ONLINE PRESENCE

Our online presence through our website or social media platforms will adhere to the following guidelines:

- All social media accounts will be password-protected, and at least two members of staff and/or volunteers will have access to each account and password.
- Social media accounts will be monitored by a designated person, who will have been appointed by the committee.
- The designated person managing our online presence will seek advice from the Club Welfare Officer and British Wrestling to advise on safeguarding requirements as required.
- The designated person will remove any inappropriate posts, explaining why, and informing anyone who may be affected (as well as the parents/carers of any children and/or adults at risk involved).

- Account, page and event settings will be set to 'private' so that only those invited can see their content.
- Social media pages/groups (e.g. Facebook pages/groups) used to communicate with children must be an organisation, community or sports group and not personal.
- Identifying details such as a child's home address, school details, telephone number or email will not be posted on social media platforms.
- Any posts or correspondence will be of a professional purpose.
- We will make sure children and adults at risk are aware of who manages our social media accounts and who to contact if they have any concerns about the running of the account.
- Parents/carers will be asked to give their consent for us to communicate with their children or any adult at risk through social media, via video conferencing platforms or by any other means of communication.
- Parents/carers will need to give consent for photographs or videos of their child or any adult at risk to be posted on social media.

- All of our accounts and email addresses will be appropriate, fit for purpose and only used for venue/county specific activities.
- Video conferencing sessions will be password protected to maintain children's and adults at risks' privacy and prevent exposure to inappropriate or harmful content by third parties.

WHAT WE EXPECT OF STAFF, COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS

- They should be aware of this policy and behave in accordance with it.
- They should seek the advice from our Club Welfare Officer and British Wrestling if they have any concerns about the use of the internet or social media.
- Any messages they wish to send out to children and/or adults at risk must be sent through the designated person responsible for the organisation's online presence.
- They must not 'friend' or 'follow' children and/ or adults at risk from personal accounts on social-media and maintain the same professional boundaries online as they would in person when using organisation accounts.
- They must make sure any content posted is accurate and appropriate.
- They must not communicate with children and/or adults at risk via personal accounts or private messages.
- They must communicate with parents/ carers through email or in writing, or use an organisational account, profile or website rather than via personal social media accounts.
- They must copy in parents/carers or at least one other member of staff, coach or volunteer should to any communications sent to children and/ or adults at risk.
- They must avoid communication with children and/ or adults at risk beyond dedicated event or activity timings, unless it is necessary for professional purposes (i.e. emergencies, whilst on a trip, etc.) and contacting the parents/carers is not possible.

- They must sign off any communication in a professional manner, avoiding the use of emojis or symbols such as kisses (“X’s”).
- They will respond to any concerns reported through social media in the same way as a face-to- face disclosure, in accordance with our safeguarding policy.
- They must not engage in sexting, or send pictures or messages that are abusive, obscene, inappropriate, indecent, or menacing to anyone.
- They must ensure any 1-2-1 sessions with children and/or adults at risk involve the parents/carers being able to supervise their child, or alternatively, that another coach/member of staff is present. This supervision would not necessarily require the parents/carers to be in the same room, as long as they are able to check in on the session.

WHAT WE EXPECT OF ALL WRESTLERS

- They should be aware of this policy.
- They will sign and adhere to the acceptable use statement for internet and social media use.
- They will behave responsibly online and refrain from any bullying or abusive behaviour.

WHAT WE EXPECT OF PARENTS/CARERS

- They should be aware of this policy and behave in accordance with it.
- They should seek the advice from our Club Welfare Officer and British Wrestling if they have any concerns about the use of the internet or social media.
- They should communicate with staff, coaches and volunteers in a professional and appropriate manner.
- They must not engage in sexting, or send pictures or messages that are abusive, obscene, inappropriate, indecent or menacing to anyone.
- They will ensure their children and any adults at risk understand and sign the acceptable use statement for internet and social media use on all devices

USING MOBILE PHONES/DEVICES TO COMMUNICATE

When using mobile phone or other devices to communicate, we will take the following precautions to help keep children safe:

Staff, coaches, and volunteers will communicate through parents/carers directly or copy them into all messages to children and adults at risk.

Where it is necessary to contact children or adults at risk directly, and it is not possible to copy for the parents/carers into the message, we will seek parental or carer consent to do this or include a second practitioner.

In some circumstances it may be necessary for staff, coaches and volunteers to message children or adults at risk directly for logistical reasons and it is impractical to text the parents/carers, for example cancelling or rescheduling a training session.

Where this type of one-to-one communication by text message is needed, the message will not be deleted from the device to ensure an audit trail exists.

Messages will be used for professional communication, such as reminders about lesson times, meeting points etc.

If staff, coaches and volunteers only have one mobile phone, and it is not possible to have a second business phone, they will ensure the parents/carers and child or adult at risk understand this and agree and adhere to clear boundaries.

If a child or adult at risk tries to engage a member of staff, coach or volunteer in a conversation which is not of a professional manner (for example, their personal life), the member of staff, coach or volunteer will:

- end the conversation or not reply;
- inform the Club Welfare Officer as soon as possible and arrange to address the matter with the child or adult at risk and their parents/carers appropriately; and
- if the conversation raises safeguarding concerns, notify British Wrestling as soon as possible.

USING MOBILE PHONES/DEVICES DURING ACTIVITIES

So that all children and adults at risk can enjoy and actively take part in wrestling, we discourage the use of mobile phones/devices.

As part of this policy, we will:

- Make children and adults at risk aware of how and who to contact if there is an emergency or a change to previously agreed arrangements.
- Inform parents/carers of appropriate times they can contact children and adults at risk who are away on trips.
- Advise parents/carers that it may not be possible to contact children and adults at risk during activities and provide a contact within the venue or organisation who will be reachable should there be an emergency.
- Explain to children and adults at risk how using mobile phones during activities has an impact on their safe awareness of their environment, and their level of participation and achievement

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SITUATIONS REQUIRING ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

Some roles are directly positioned to support a child's or adult at risk's well-being and are therefore delivered in one-to-one environments (upon receiving written parental consent).

These roles are usually members of a well-being group (Performance Lifestyle Advisors, Sport Psychologists, Clinical Psychologist, Medical Doctor) and collectively have the expertise to support any concerns raised to player or staff well-being.

Practitioners in this group may at times be required to maintain confidentiality in regards to well- being support. This confidentiality may also extend to certain follow up communication, e.g. emails which relate to what was discussed in the session. This means that it may not necessarily be appropriate to include parents/carers or other practitioners in the sessions or related communications.

In some circumstances, practitioners who are not in the well-being group may need to communicate with a child or adult at risk directly. These situations should be limited to logistical or pastoral reasons. For example, to let the child or adult at risk know they are running late, to cancel or reschedule a session, or whilst on a trip it is necessary to call the player directly.

For all practitioners, where one-to-one communication takes place, an audit trail should be retained. For example, ensuring written communication (e.g. email, text messages, etc) are not deleted and that logs are kept of any telephone/video call.

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures, including:

- Anti-Bullying
- Code of conduct
- Diversity and inclusion
- Photography and filming
- Use of changing rooms
- Safeguarding policy
- Safeguarding at events, activities and competitions
- Safe recruitment

USEFUL CONTACTS

For further information for parents about keeping children safe online Keeping children safe online:

NCA CEOP Education
www.ceopeducation.co.uk

Childnet
www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/parents-and-carers

Ann Craft Trust - Safeguarding Adults
www.anncrafttrust.org

This policy is reviewed every three years
(or earlier if there is a change in national legislation).

Chairperson: Date:

Club Welfare Office: Date:

WRESTLE SAFE

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british_wrestling