



LONDON YOUTH GAMES FOUNDATION

SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This policy is based on the fact that the welfare and interests of young people and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and young people:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at the London Youth Games in a safe and young person centred environment; and
- are protected from all forms of abuse whilst participating in London Youth Games activities.

London Youth Games Foundation acknowledges that some children and young people can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to help to ensure their welfare. London Youth Games recognises its role in passing on information relating to any form of welfare or safety concern to the appropriate bodies. These could be within sport, the statutory or voluntary sector. All reports of poor practice and suspicions or allegations of harm to the welfare and safety of children or young people will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. London Youth Games staff and volunteers should discuss any such concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Officer. Confidentiality should be upheld in line with the Data Protection Act 1984 and the Human Rights Act 2000.

SCOPE

This Safeguarding policy applies to all staff and volunteers employed directly by London Youth Games as well as those representing YLG as contractors, on a full or part-time basis. It will be applied consistently regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, disability or age or any other condition or requirement which cannot be shown to be justifiable.



RESPONSIBILITIES

London Youth Games acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

LYG recognises its responsibility to safeguard and promote the interests of children and young people by:

- Adopting a child and young person centred approach to all of its activities and programmes, ensuring that their safety and welfare is considered at all times.
- Ensuring that effective safeguarding procedures and practices are reflected and applied to activities undertaken by London Youth Games staff and volunteers.
- In its interaction with its networks and supporters, promote a minimum set of standards in safeguarding and child protection.

PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE IN SAFEGUARDING

Abuse can occur within many situations including the home, school and the sporting environment. There are individuals who actively seek employment or voluntary work with young people in order to harm or exploit them. More positively, a coach, instructor, official or volunteer having contact with young people can play an important role in identifying cases where protection is needed. All cases of poor practice should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer within LYG. All reports received will be reviewed by them who will determine the appropriate course of action.

All LYG staff and volunteers are required to demonstrate exemplary behaviour to promote the welfare of children and reduce the likelihood of misinterpretation of their actions or allegations being made. All LYG staff and volunteers are required to comply with the LYG Code of Conduct whilst working on behalf of the organisation.

Appendix 1

London Youth Games Code of Conduct

London Youth Games staff, public-facing contractors and volunteers involved in sport and activity for children and young people have a great opportunity to be positive role models and to help build an individual's confidence.



Implementation of the Code of Conduct

The codes of conduct contained in this appendix are for use by London Youth Games staff members, public-facing contractors and volunteers. A code of conduct is to be introduced and explained to YLG team members at the following times:

- at staff inductions;
- at event briefings for YLG organised events and activities where staff will be in contact with children and young people.

These codes of conduct are to promote a child centred approach from all staff members, public facing contractors and volunteers to ensure the welfare and safety of children and young people. The briefings and inductions outlined above are to be led by either the Designated Safeguarding Officer or the safeguarding lead at the event/activity.

General Code of Conduct

All London Youth Games staff and volunteers are expected to operate in a young person and child centred approach to welfare and safety. What this means to London Youth Games is ensuring the welfare and safety of the children and young people engaging with London Youth Games is placed first. Whilst staff and volunteers are ultimately responsible for their own action, we expect them to take note of the expectations below

Staff and volunteers are expected to:

- Ensure that all activities that are delivered are designed with the welfare and safety of the children and young people in mind.
- Ensure the activities and atmosphere that the children and young people are participating in is engaging for all young people and that there is a focus on fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure the safety of all children by careful supervision, proper pre-planning of activity, using safe methods at all times.
- Treat all young people equally and ensure they feel valued. Have no favourites.
- Encourage all children to engage with the activity or event and try to ensure that no children or young people are isolated or discriminated against.
- Be positive, approachable and always offer praise to promote the objectives of the organisation.
- Report accidents or incidents of alleged abuse or poor practice to the Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- Respect and listen to the opinions of young people.



- Be a role model, displaying consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance (disciplined/committed/time keeping), remember children and young people learn by example.

Staff and volunteers have the right to:

- Access appropriate briefing/training/information on all aspects of their roles in relation to safeguarding.
- Support in the reporting of suspected abuse.
- Fair and equitable treatment by London Youth Games.
- Be protected from abuse by children/young people, other colleagues and parents/partners.
- Not to be left vulnerable when working with children.

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be dealt with immediately and reported verbally to the designated person. Persistent breach of the code will result in dismissal from the event or organisation. Dismissals can be appealed by the staff member/volunteer with final decisions taken by London Youth Games or referred to the appropriate body depending on the disciplinary procedures within the activity.