



UKIHF SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction

The UK Inline Hockey Federation (UKIHF) is a not-for-profit organisation run by an elected management committee (the Team). The organisation is based at Northwest Roller Sports, Atherton, and one member of the Team is designated with specific responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The UKIHF has adopted this safeguarding policy, which applies to all staff, managers, trustees, directors, volunteers, students, or anyone working on behalf of the UKIHF. All adults working or volunteering with us are expected to support and comply with this policy.

Purpose of the Policy

This policy is designed to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults who engage with UKIHF's services, including the children of adults involved with the organisation. We are committed to ensuring that no individual experiences abuse, neglect, or harm. These guidelines provide clear instructions for our staff and volunteers on safeguarding and the protection of vulnerable individuals.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

UKIHF acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults from abuse, exploitation, and harm. Our commitment includes:

- **Universal Protection:** Every child and vulnerable adult, regardless of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or identity, is entitled to protection from harm.
 - **Vulnerable Groups:** Some individuals may be more at risk due to specific circumstances, prior experiences, or communication needs. UKIHF is committed to working with families, guardians, and other agencies to ensure their safety and well-being.
 - **Collaborative Approach:** Effective safeguarding requires collaboration between children, vulnerable adults, their families or carers, and relevant professionals to promote their well-being.
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Anti-Bullying Policy

UKIHF has a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of bullying. This includes physical, verbal, emotional, and cyberbullying, whether it occurs between children, between adults, or between adults and children.

Handling Child-on-Child Bullying

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- **Immediate Response:** In any reported incident of child-on-child bullying, the individuals involved will be separated immediately, and the parents or guardians of those involved will be informed.
- **Review and Action:** The safeguarding team will review the incident to assess the risk of further bullying or harm. Based on this review, UKIHF may take action to safeguard all parties involved. This may include offering mediation or banning the child responsible for bullying from future events or activities.
- **Parental Involvement:** Parents will play a crucial role in resolving incidents of bullying, and their cooperation is vital in implementing any corrective actions.

Handling Adult-on-Child Bullying

- **Investigation:** Allegations of adults bullying children will be taken very seriously. These incidents will be investigated thoroughly, and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken if the allegations are substantiated.
- **Disciplinary Action:** If an adult is found to have bullied a child, they may be banned from future activities or have their role within UKIHF reviewed, depending on the severity of the incident.

Managing Behaviour and Acceptable Restraints

UKIHF encourages a positive approach to behaviour management, fostering a respectful and safe environment for all participants. However, we recognise that in rare cases, physical intervention may be necessary.

- **Behavioural Standards:** Participants are expected to behave responsibly, showing respect for others. Disruptive or harmful behaviour will be addressed in accordance with UKIHF's disciplinary procedures.
- **Restraint Guidelines:** Physical restraint may only be used when absolutely necessary to prevent harm to any person or serious damage to property. Any such intervention must be proportionate and will be recorded and reviewed by the safeguarding officer.

Supervision of Children and Vulnerable Adults During Activities

UKIHF ensures that appropriate supervision is provided during all activities, particularly for off-site events or activities involving vulnerable individuals.

- **Risk Assessments:** A thorough risk assessment will be conducted for all events, particularly those involving children or vulnerable adults. Appropriate steps will be taken to mitigate any potential risks.



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- **Supervision Ratios:** Adequate supervision will be provided at all times. All off-site activities will have a designated lead responsible for the welfare of participants.
 - **Parental Consent:** Written consent from parents or guardians is required for any child or vulnerable adult to participate in activities away from the main premises. Emergency contact details must also be provided.
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Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

As some UKIHF activities involve unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable adults, staff and volunteers will be subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, in compliance with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

- **DBS Clearance:** All relevant personnel will undergo DBS checks, and no individual without the required clearance will be allowed unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults.
- **Handling Allegations:** UKIHF will take any allegations of impropriety seriously. Any concerns raised will be reported to the safeguarding officer immediately and handled according to our disciplinary procedures.

Health and Safety in Safeguarding

Before any event or activity involving unaccompanied children or vulnerable adults, a detailed risk assessment will be conducted, and health and safety measures will be implemented.

- **Emergency Procedures:** In the case of an emergency, at least two adults must be present to ensure that one can address the situation while the other supervises the group. All staff and volunteers are trained in emergency protocols.
- **Record-Keeping:** Detailed records of risk assessments and incidents will be maintained and reviewed regularly to ensure continued compliance with safety standards.

Continued Compliance and Monitoring

UKIHF is committed to regularly reviewing its safeguarding policies to ensure ongoing compliance with all relevant legislation and best practices.

- **Regular Training:** All staff and volunteers are required to undergo safeguarding training, including updates on new regulations and procedures. This ensures that everyone is aware of their responsibilities in protecting children and vulnerable adults.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The safeguarding officer will conduct regular audits to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding measures and recommend improvements as necessary.

Photographing and Sharing Images

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UKIHF understands the importance of privacy while also recognising the need to capture moments during activities. Photos may be taken at events, but consent will always be obtained from parents, guardians, or individuals before publishing images.

Managing Behaviour, Discipline, and Restraints

UKIHF staff supervising children or vulnerable adults must never use any form of corporal punishment. In cases where behaviour becomes unsafe, minimal and proportionate physical restraint may be used only to prevent harm.

- **Unacceptable Behaviour:** Disruptive or unsafe behaviour will be managed by separating the individuals involved and supervising them appropriately. Where necessary, they will be returned to their parents' care.
 - **Disciplinary Measures:** UKIHF reserves the right to ban individuals from future activities if unacceptable behaviour continues, in accordance with our disciplinary policy.
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Other Policies

This safeguarding policy should be read alongside UKIHF's other policies, including our Code of Conduct and Health and Safety guidelines. These policies will be updated periodically to reflect changes in law, venue, or services.

Legal Framework

This policy has been developed in accordance with UK law, including:

- Children Act 1989
 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991
 - Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
 - Children and Families Act 2014
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children (2017)
and other relevant legislation.
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Note: This policy is reviewed annually by the UKIHF management team to ensure it remains current and effective in safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults.