

CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING POLICY



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This Policy must be used in partnership with the Safeguarding Statement document which outlines the role and responsibility and commitment of the BMC to safeguarding everyone.

This Policy will be reviewed on 1 September 2024 to ensure that it is in line with current legislation and with insight of its effectiveness from all areas of the organisation.

BMC Participation Statement

Climbing, hill walking and mountaineering can provide life-long physical, social and mental health benefits through exercise and adventure in amazing environments. The BMC recognises that these activities involve a risk of personal injury or death. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and impacts on others.

1. Definitions

- 1.1 BMC means the British Mountaineering Council (company number 0287417).
- 1.2 A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 (Children's Act 1989) within this policy the reference children and young people relates to anyone under the age of 18.
- 1.3 For the sole purpose of this document the word Mountaineering used within this Policy relates to indoor and outdoor climbing, ice-climbing, dry tooling, scrambling, hill walking, ski-mountaineering and mountaineering.
- 1.4 Policy means this document, the BMC's Safeguarding Children Policy.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this Policy is to demonstrate the commitment of the BMC to safeguarding children and young people and to ensure that everyone involved in the BMC is aware of:
 - 2.1.1 the legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding children and young people.
 - 2.1.2 their role and responsibility for safeguarding children and young people.
 - 2.1.3 what to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of a child /young person within the organisation.

3. Scope

- 3.1 This Policy and associated procedures apply to all BMC staff, volunteers and members. Everyone participating, officiating, spectating or volunteering at a BMC event or a BMC-sanctioned event and any activity undertaken under the BMC clubs and/or third-party liability Insurance cover.
- 3.2 This Policy and associated procedures apply to all concerns about the safety of children and young people whilst taking part in the BMC, its activities and in the wider community.
- 3.3 We expect our partner organisations, including for example, BMC-affiliated clubs, suppliers and sponsors to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice as set out in this Policy and associated guidelines and procedures.

4. Commitment

- 4.1 The BMC is committed to ensuring, and believes, that all children and young people have the right to be, and feel, safe in an enjoyable environment free from abuse when involved in any aspect of Mountaineering. BMC accepts that we have a responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of all children and young people keeping them free from harm with the help and support of everyone.
- 4.2 It is mandatory for all BMC staff and volunteers working with children and young people to comply with this Policy, any BMC Codes of Conduct, associated guidelines and procedures.
- 4.3 The BMC will support anyone who, in good faith, reports their concerns that a child/children or young person/people, may be, or actually is being abused and will make every effort to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned, and will only share on a need to know basis.

5. Policy Purpose

- 5.1 The purpose of this Policy is to:
 - 5.1.1 promote and actively support the welfare and physical and mental well-being of children and young people and protect them from harm or the risk of harm;
 - 5.1.2 ensure that safeguarding is paramount across Mountaineering.
- 5.2 The Policy supports and outlines the BMC's commitment to safeguarding children and young people, with general principles and guidance to be followed when Mountaineering.
- 5.3 Everyone involved in Mountaineering must ensure that they understand and follow this Policy in conjunction with the Safeguarding Statement, and all related policies and supporting guidance where applicable.
- 5.4 This Policy has taken into consideration and is based on legislation from the Children's Act 1989 and 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- 5.5 The BMC is an organisation that is funded by Sport England and UK Sport and is audited annually, and works collaboratively with, the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) to meet Safeguarding Standards in Sport [click here to see these standards](#).

6. The BMC's role and responsibility

- 6.1 The BMC's role and responsibility is to:
 - 6.1.1 promote this Policy and associated guidance and procedures across Mountaineering;
 - 6.1.2 provide appropriate advice, guidance and support through the BMC's Safeguarding Team;
 - 6.1.3 ensure that all safeguarding concerns reported to them will be acted on in a timely manner and reported to the relevant statutory agencies when and if required;
 - 6.1.4 deliver high quality and fit for purpose safeguarding education and training to all involved in Mountaineering.

7. Responsibility when Mountaineering

- 7.1 It is the responsibility of those involved in Mountaineering to:
 - 7.1.1 comply with this Policy and associated guidance and procedures, for example, but not limited to, the Safeguarding Statement, Code of Conduct, safe recruitment processes;
 - 7.1.2 follow the reporting safeguarding concerns flowchart and procedures.

8. BMC Clubs with child/children and young people attending without parental/carers supervision

- 8.1 BMC Clubs with child/children membership are required to:
 - 8.1.1 adopt this Policy.
 - 8.1.2 have a named and suitably qualified safeguarding officer i.e. hold a BMC-recognised DBS, recognised safeguarding training less than 3 years old and have completed the Time to Listen workshop.
 - 8.1.3 ensure all coaches/instructors have a DBS that is accepted by the BMC, i.e. through the BMC DBS system or on the update service and up to date recognised safeguarding training- less than 3 years old.
 - 8.1.4 ensure that reporting safeguarding concerns flowchart and procedures are followed and publicised to all within the club.
 - 8.1.5 provide an environment that is positive and inclusive where the safeguarding of children is paramount.

9. Clubs with children and young people attending with parental/carers supervision

- 9.1 Clubs with family membership are required to:
 - 9.1.1 adopt this Policy.
 - 9.1.2 have a named person with basic safeguarding knowledge and understands how to report concerns (training provided by the BMC).
 - 9.1.3 ensure all coaches/instructors have a DBS that is accepted by the BMC if in regulated activity*, i.e. through the BMC DBS system or on the update service and up to date safeguarding training [click here to see this document.](#)
 - 9.1.4 ensure that reporting safeguarding concerns flowcharts and procedures are followed and publicised to all within the club.
 - 9.1.5 provide an environment that is positive and inclusive where the safeguarding of children is paramount.

10. General Principles

These principles are outlined in the Safeguarding Statement and must be applied by everyone involved in Mountaineering.

- 10.1 The welfare of the child is paramount and will underpin all guidance.
- 10.2 Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all safeguarding concerns must be reported in a timely manner. Remember that it is not your responsibility to decide if poor practice or abuse has taken place, it is your responsibility to report the concern. It is the responsibility of safeguarding experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place.
- 10.3 Provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care and responsibility of the BMC.
- 10.4 Everyone must ensure there is a culture where children are listened to and respected as individuals.
- 10.5 All safeguarding concerns will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately and in a timely manner.
- 10.6 Give guidance and support, when required, to all within Mountaineering and all involved in the

delivery of activities for young people.

- 10.7 Ensure all children, regardless their age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, have a positive and enjoyable experience and are protected from abuse.
- 10.8 Within Mountaineering this Policy is mandatory.

11. Additional Guidance

- Reporting concerns children 2023
- Reporting concerns adults 2023
- Club Guidelines
- Good Practice
- Safe Recruitment
- Code of Conduct
- Social media Guidelines
- Anti-bullying policy
- Hearing procedures
- Suspension & internal enquiries
- Applying for a DBS check
- Chaperone guidelines
- Photography / video guidelines

12. Contact Details for the Safeguarding Team at the BMC

Safeguarding Team email address safeguarding@thebmc.co.uk

Phone number 0161 438 3305

13. Useful contacts

NSPCC helpline

Phone 0800 800 500 Email help@nspcc.org.uk

Childline - An entirely confidential helpline for children

Phone 0800 1111 Web www.childline.org.uk

Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)

<https://thecpsu.org.uk/> email : cpsu@nspcc.org.uk

* Regulated activity for a coach - anyone employed to be a coach or instructor of children's sports whose duties include teaching, training or instructing children, or providing advice or guidance to children relating to their physical, emotional or educational well-being, is eligible for an enhanced check with a children's barred list check.

This is because they are performing regulated activity with children if the period condition is met.

The period condition is:

- at any time on more than three days in any period of 30 days, or
- at any time between 2am and 6am with the opportunity for face-to-face contact with children.