

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT



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1. Introduction

At the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), our mission is to safeguard the future of hill walking, climbing, and mountaineering, allowing individuals to experience adventure today and for generations to follow.

From rugged peaks to coastal cliffs, the BMC works diligently to preserve and restore our natural landscapes, partners with others to maintain open access for all, and offer competitive opportunities for anyone who wishes to participate, as well as nurture budding talent into future Olympic champions.

We are firm believers in the liberating power of adventure and are committed to making it accessible to everyone. We embrace challenges in all their forms, whether it's participating, or excelling at the highest level. We believe that embracing challenges enriches lives, fosters mental and physical well-being, and unites our community. Our goal is to inspire as many people as possible to join us in enjoying these exhilarating activities and sports.

The BMC actively supports clubs, community groups, and climbing walls to foster grassroots involvement, provide opportunities for participation, disseminate essential knowledge, and ensure that our sport is inclusive, safe, and welcoming.

2. Our Statement

The BMC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguarding, protecting and promoting the welfare and well-being of children, young people and adults involved with the organisation.

Our safeguarding policies recognise that the safeguarding of everyone is paramount but in particular children, young people and adults at risk. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, everyone has a positive and enjoyable experience and are protected from abuse.

We acknowledge that some people, including those with disabilities, additional needs or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to safeguard them.

3. Our commitment

The safeguarding and well-being of all involved in our organisation is paramount and by working to our safeguarding policies for children and adults we will:

- 3.1. Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of all involved and linked with the BMC.
- 3.2. Value, listen to and respect all those involved and ensure robust safeguarding arrangements, guidelines and procedures are in operation.
- 3.3. Adopt safeguarding good practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff, members, participants, athletes, coaches, instructors, judges and volunteers.
- 3.4. Where children, young people and adults at risk are involved make sure they have a voice and that it is actively listened to.
- 3.5. Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning, training opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, or other safeguarding concerns.
- 3.6. Provide effective management for staff, members, participants, athletes, coaches, instructors, judges and volunteers, through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that they all

know about our policies, procedures and expected behaviours and follow them confidently and competently.

- 3.7. Make certain that all safeguarding incidents and concerns brought to our attention are investigated thoroughly, in a timely manner and appropriate action is taken where necessary.
- 3.8. Confirm that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and kept securely in line with current legislation.
- 3.9. Share safeguarding and good practice information with everyone via our website, leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions. Provide support to the individual(s) who raise a concern as well as those implicated.
- 3.10. Promote regularly where to go for help if they have a safeguarding concern to enable everyone to report them. Provide support to the individual(s) who raise a concern as well as being investigated.
- 3.11. Prevent the employment or deployment of unsuitable individuals by recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are completed.

4. Guidance, information and support

For further guidance, information with regards safeguarding at the BMC can be found by:

Emailing safeguarding@thebmc.co.uk or visiting the website <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-child-protection-information>

5. Further Guidance

NSPCC helpline

If you're worried about a child, even if you're unsure, you can speak to us about your concerns. Whether you want to report child abuse and neglect or aren't sure what to do, we're here to listen, offer advice and support, and can take the next steps if a child's in danger You can contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0808 800 5000 or emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk.

Childline

For children contact Childline on 0800 1111

Ann Craft Trust

Support organisations to safeguard adults and young people at risk and minimise the risk of harm:

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/#sport>