 Prime Acrobatics	Safeguarding Adults in Sport Policy	
	Version Date:	21-July-2025
	Version:	2
	Responsibility:	Chris Bowler

1. Introduction

Prime Acrobatics is committed to Safeguarding Adults in line with national legislation and relevant national and local guidelines. We will safeguard adults by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all adults safe.

Prime Acrobatics is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to adults which necessitates:

- The recognition of adults who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase
- Knowing how adult abuse, exploitations or neglect manifests itself
- Being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

This extends to recognising and reporting harm experienced anywhere, including within our activities, within other organised community or voluntary activities, in the community, in the person's own home and in any care setting.

Prime Acrobatics is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of all adults to live a life free from harm, from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

2. Policy Statement

Prime Acrobatics believes everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability, disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.

Prime Acrobatics is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

Prime Acrobatics acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved.

Prime Acrobatics recognises that health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. We recognise that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help. We recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.


Prime Acrobatics recognises that there is a legal framework within which sports need to work to safeguard adults who have needs for care and support and for protecting those who are unable to take action to protect themselves. We will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding adult legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.

Actions taken by Prime Acrobatics will be consistent with the principles of adult safeguarding, ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the adult concerned.

3. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of Prime Acrobatics to safeguarding adults and to ensure that everyone involved is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding adults.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults.
- What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult within the club.

 Prime Acrobatics	Safeguarding Adults in Sport Policy	
	Version Date:	21-July-2025
	Version:	2
	Responsibility:	Chris Bowler

This Safeguarding Adults policy and associated procedures apply to all individuals involved in Prime Acrobatics including the Director, Executives, Managers, Staff, Coaches, Volunteers and Members to all concerns about the safety of adults whilst taking part in our club, its activities and in the wider community.


We expect our partner organisations, including affiliated clubs, suppliers and sponsors to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practise as set out in this Safeguarding Adults Policy and associated procedures.

4. Commitments

To implement this policy, Prime Acrobatics will ensure that:

- Everyone involved with the Club is aware of the safeguarding adult procedures and knows what to do. This includes who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult.
- Any concern that an adult is not safe is taken seriously, responded to promptly, and followed up in line with Prime Acrobatics Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- The well-being of those at risk of harm will be put first and the adult actively supported to communicate their views and the outcomes they want to achieve. Those views and wishes will be respected and supported unless there are overriding reasons not to (see the Safeguarding Adults Procedures).
- Any actions taken will respect the rights and dignity of all those involved and be proportionate to the risk of harm.
- Confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored in line with our Data Protection Policy and Procedures.
- Prime Acrobatics acts in accordance with the best practice advice, including UK Sport, Sport England, National Governing Bodies, NSPCC, Ann Craft Trust.
- Prime Acrobatics will co-operate with the Police and the relevant Local Authorities in taking action to safeguard an adult.
- The Director and all Executives, Managers, Staff and Volunteers understand their roles and responsibility for safeguarding adults and have completed up to date safeguarding adult training and learning opportunities appropriate for their role.
- Prime Acrobatics uses safe recruitment practices and continually assesses the suitability of volunteers and staff to prevent the employment of unsuitable individuals in our club and within the sporting community.
- Prime Acrobatics shares information about anyone found to be a risk to adults with the appropriate bodies, including the Disclosure and Barring Services, Police, Local Authorities and Social Services.
- When planning activities and events, Prime Acrobatics includes an assessment of, and risk to, the safety of all adults from abuse and neglect. This includes designating a person who will be in attendance as a safeguarding lead for that event.
- Actions taken under the policy are reviewed by the Director, Executives and Management team on an annual basis.
- This policy, related policies and the Safeguarding Adults Procedures are reviewed on an annual basis and whenever there are changes in relevant legislation and / or government guidance as required by the Local Safeguarding Board, UK Sport, Sport England and British Gymnastics or as a result of any other significant change or event

5. Implementation

 Prime Acrobatics	Safeguarding Adults in Sport Policy	
	Version Date:	21-July-2025
	Version:	2
	Responsibility:	Chris Bowler

Prime Acrobatics is committed to developing and maintaining its capability to implement this policy and procedures by ensuring the following will be in place:

- A clear line of accountability within the Club for the safety and welfare of all adults.
- Access to relevant legal and professional advice.
- Regular management reports to the Director, Executives and Management team detailing how risks and reports to adult safeguarding are being addressed.
- Safeguarding adult procedures that deal effectively with any concerns of abuse or neglect, including those caused through poor practise.
- A Welfare Officer.
- Arrangements to work effectively with other relevant organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults, including arrangements for sharing information.
- Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Volunteers and Participants that specify a zero tolerance of abuse in any form.
- Risk assessments that specifically include the safeguarding of adults.
- Policies and procedures that address the following areas which are consistent with this Safeguarding Adults Policy:
 - Safeguarding Children
 - Anti-bullying
 - Social Media
 - Equality, diversity and inclusion
 - Risk assessments
 - Codes of Conduct for Staff, Volunteers and Participants
 - Discipline and Grievance
 - Concerns, Complaints and Compliments
 - Whistleblowing
 - Safe recruitment and selection
 - GDPR


6. Supporting Information: Key Points

- There is a legal duty on Local Authorities to provide support to adults at risk.
- The safeguarding legislation applies to all forms of abuse that harm a person's well-being.
- The law provides a framework for good practice in safeguarding that makes the overall well-being of the adult at risk a priority of an intervention.
- The law emphasises the importance of person-centred safeguarding.
- The law provides a framework for making decisions on behalf of adults who can't make decisions for themselves (Mental Capacity).
- The law provides a framework for sports organisations to share concerns they have about adults at risk with the local authority.
- The law provides a framework for all organisations to share information and cooperate to protect adults at risk.

7. Safeguarding Adults Legislation

Safeguarding Adults in all home nations is compliant with United Nations directives on the rights of disabled people and commitments to the rights of older people. It is covered by:

- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- General Data Protection Regulations 2018

 Prime Acrobatics	Safeguarding Adults in Sport Policy	
	Version Date:	21-July-2025
	Version:	2
	Responsibility:	Chris Bowler

The practises and procedures within this policy are based on the relevant legislation and government guidance in England:

- The Care Act 2014
- Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2014

Many other pieces of legislation also affect adult safeguarding, which include different forms of abuse and those that govern information sharing. For example, legislation dealing with:

- Murder / attempted murder.
- Physical Assault.
- Sexual Offences
- Domestic Abuse / Coercive control
- Forced Marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation.
- Theft and Fraud
- Modern Slavery and Human Exploitation
- Hate Crime
- Harassment
- Listing and Barring of those unsuitable to work with adults with care and support needs

There are specific offences applying to the mistreatment of and sexual offences against adults who do not have Mental Capacity (this is covered under the Mental Capacity Act 2005) and specific offences where mistreatment is carried out by a person who is employed as a carer e.g. wilful neglect and wilful mistreatment.

8. Definition of an Adult at Risk

The Safeguarding Adults legislation creates specific responsibilities on Local Authorities, Health, and the Police to provide additional protection from abuse and neglect to Adults at Risk.


When a Local Authority has reason to believe there is an adult at risk, they have a responsibility to find out more about the situation and decide what actions need to be taken to support the adult. The actions that need to be taken might be by the Local Authority (usually Social Services) and / or by other agencies, for example, the Police and Health. Prime Acrobatics may need to take action as part of safeguarding an adult, for example, to use the disciplinary procedures in relation to a member of staff or member who has been reported to be harming a participant. The Local Authority roles include having multi-agency procedures which coordinate the actions taken by different organisations.

The Care Act (2014) states that an adult at risk is an individual aged 18 years and over who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) AND;
- Is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect, AND;
- As a result of those care and support needs, they are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

9. Abuse and Neglect

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons. It can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person

 Prime Acrobatics	Safeguarding Adults in Sport Policy	
	Version Date:	21-July-2025
	Version:	2
	Responsibility:	Chris Bowler

subjected to it. Any or all the following types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent, negligence, omission or ignorance.

There are different types of patterns of abuse and neglect and different circumstances in which they may take place – the Safeguarding Adults Legislation in England (The Care Act 2014) define the categories of adult abuse and harm as follows:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological / Emotional / Mental
- Neglect and acts of Omission
- Financial or material abuse
- Discriminatory
- Organisation / Institutional
- Self-neglect
- Domestic Abuse (including coercive control)
- Modern Slavery

Abuse can take place in any relationship and there are many contexts in which abuse might take place e.g. Institutional Abuse, Domestic Abuse, Forced Marriage, Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Sexual Exploitation, County Lines, Radicalisation, Hate Crime, Mate Crime, Cyber Bullying and Scams.

Abuse can take place within a sporting context and the person causing harm might be any other person, for example, a member of staff, a coach, a volunteer, a participant or a spectator. Some examples of abuse within sport include:

- Harassment of a participant because of their (perceived) disability or other protected characteristics.
- Not meeting the needs of the participant e.g. training without a necessary break.
- A coach intentionally hitting a participant
- One participant controlling another participant with threats of withdrawal from their partnership or group.
- An official who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages to a participant with learning disabilities.
- A participant threatens another participant with physical harm and persistently blames them for poor performance.


Abuse or neglect outside our sport could be carried out by:

- A spouse, partner or family member
- Neighbours or residents
- Friends, acquaintances or strangers
- People who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable.
- Paid staff, professionals or volunteers providing care and support.

Often the perpetrator is known to the adult and may be in a position of trust and / or power.

10. Signs and Indicators of Abuse and Neglect

An adult may confide to a member of staff, coach, volunteer or another participant that they are experiencing abuse inside or outside of the Club's setting. Similarly, others may suspect that this is the case. There are many signs and indicators that may suggest someone is being abused or

 Prime Acrobatics	Safeguarding Adults in Sport Policy	
	Version Date:	21-July-2025
	Version:	2
	Responsibility:	Chris Bowler

neglected. There may be other explanations, but they should not be ignored. The signs and symptoms include but are not limited to:

- Unexplained bruising or injuries – or lack of medical attention when an injury is present.
- A person has belongings or money going missing.
- The person is not attending or no longer enjoying their sessions. The individual could be missing their shifts or training and is not responding to communication from others.
- An individual is losing or gaining weight or has an unkempt appearance.
- A change of behaviour or confidence of a person. For example, a participant may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their brother arrives to collect them from the sessions in contrast to their personal assistant whom they greet with a smile.
- Self-harm
- A fear of a particular group of people or individuals.
- A parent / carer always speaks for the person and doesn't allow them to make their own choices.
- They may tell you / another person they are being abused.

11. Wellbeing Principle

The success of sport, in terms of helping people achieve their potential, making the most of existing talent, and attracting new people to sport relies on putting people – their safety, wellbeing and welfare – at the centre of what the sport does. Duty of Care in Sport Independent Report to Government Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE, DI.


The concept of 'well-being' is threaded throughout UK Legislation and is part of the Law about how health and social care is provided. Our well-being includes our mental and physical health, our relationships, our connection with our communities and our contribution to society. Being able to live free from abuse and neglect is a key element of well-being.

The legislation recognises that statutory agencies have sometimes acted disproportionately in the past. For that reason, any actions taken to safeguard an adult take their whole well-being into account and be proportionate to the risk of harm.

12. Person Centred Safeguarding / Making Safeguarding Personal

The legislation also recognises that adults make choices that may mean that one part of our well-being suffers at the expense of another or to risk their own personal safety. For example, to provide care to a partner with dementia who becomes abusive when they are disorientated and anxious. None of us can make these choices for another adult. If we are supporting someone to make choices about their own safety, we need to understand 'What matters' to them and what outcomes they want to achieve from any actions agencies take to help them to protect themselves.

The concept of 'Person Centred Safeguarding / Making Safeguarding Personal' means engaging the person in a conversation about how best to respond to their situation in a way that enhances their involvement, choice and control. Continually, this should also improve their quality of life, well-being and safety. Organisations work to support adults to achieve the outcomes they want for themselves. The adult's views, wishes, feelings and beliefs must be taken into account when decisions are made about how to support them to be safe. There may be many ways to prevent further harm. Working with the person will mean that actions taken help them to find the solution that is right for them. Treating people with respect, enhancing their dignity and supporting their ability to make decisions also helps promote people's sense of self-worth and supports recovery from abuse.

 Prime Acrobatics	Safeguarding Adults in Sport Policy	
	Version Date:	21-July-2025
	Version:	2
	Responsibility:	Chris Bowler

If someone has difficulty making their views and wishes known, then they can be supported or represented by an advocate. This might be a safe family member, a friend of their choice or a professional advocate (usually from a third sector organisation).

The Care Act's (2014) principles of Adult Safeguarding are:

- Empowerment – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
- Prevention – it is better to take action before harm occurs.
- Proportionality – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- Protection – support and representation for those in greatest need.
- Partnership – local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
- Accountability – accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

13. Mental Capacity and Decision Making

We make many decisions every day, often without realising. UK Law assumes that all people over the age of 16 have the ability to make their own decisions, unless it has been proven they can't. It also gives us the right to make any decision that we need to make and gives us the right to make our own decisions even if others consider them to be unwise. The Law states that to make a decision we need to:

- Understand information
- Remember it for long enough
- Think about the information
- Communicate our decision


A person's ability to do this may be affected by a learning disability, dementia, mental health needs, acquired brain injury and physical ill health. Most adults have the ability to make their own decisions given the right support however, some adults with care and support needs have the experience of other people making decisions about them and for them. If someone has a disability that means they need support to understand or make a decision, this must be provided. A small number of people cannot make any decisions, which is called 'lacking mental capacity'.

Mental capacity refers to the ability to make a decision at the time that decision is needed. A person's mental capacity can change – if it is safe / possible to, it is best to wait until they are able to be involved in the decision making process or to make the decision themselves. For example:

- A person with epilepsy may not be able to make a decision following a seizure.
- Someone who is anxious may not be able to make a decision at that point.
- A person may not be able to respond as quickly if they have just taken some medication that causes fatigue.

Mental capacity is important for safeguarding for several reasons. Not being allowed to make decisions one is capable of making is abuse. For example, a disabled adult may want to take part in an activity but their parent who is their carer won't allow them to and will not provide the support they would need. Conversely, the adult may not seem to be benefiting from an activity other people are insisting they do. Continually, if an adult is being abused and they fear the consequences of going against the views of the person abusing them, it is recognised in the law as coercion. In this case, the person can be seen not to have mental capacity because they cannot make 'free and informed decisions'. Therefore:

- We can only make decisions for other people if they cannot do that for themselves at the time the decision is needed.

 Prime Acrobatics	Safeguarding Adults in Sport Policy	
	Version Date:	21-July-2025
	Version:	2
	Responsibility:	Chris Bowler

- If the decision can wait, wait. For example, to get help to help the person make their decision or until they can make it themselves.
- If we must make a decision for someone else, then we must make the decision in their best interests (for their benefit) and take into account what we know about their preferences and wishes.
- If the action we are taking to keep people safe will restrict them, then we must think of a way to do that which restricts their freedom and rights as little as possible.

Many potential difficulties with making decisions can be overcome with preparation. A person needing support to help them make decisions whilst taking part in an activity at Prime Acrobatics will ordinarily be accompanied by someone e.g. a family member or formal carer whose role includes supporting them to make decisions. It is good practice to get as much information about the person as possible. Some people with care and support needs will have a 'One Page Profile' or a 'This is me' document that describes important things about them. Prime Acrobatics wants to support the individual taking part in any of our activities and support our staff with the understanding of these documents to keep the sessions participant centred and offer the best experience for them.

If a person who has a lot of difficulty making their own decisions is thought to be being abused or neglected, Prime Acrobatics will need to refer the situation to the Local Authority, and this should result in health or social care professionals making an assessment of mental capacity. This should also result in getting the person the support they need to make decisions.

There may be times where Prime Acrobatics needs to make decisions on behalf of an individual in an emergency. Decisions taken to safeguard an adult who cannot make the decision for themselves could include:

- Sharing information about safeguarding concerns with people that can help to protect them.
- Stopping them from being in contact with the person causing harm.


14. Recording and Information Sharing

Prime Acrobatics complies with the Data Protection Act (DPA) and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Information about concerns of abuse includes personal data and it is therefore important to be clear as to the grounds for processing and sharing information about concerns of abuse. Processing information including record keeping and these relating to safeguarding concerns, and Prime Acrobatics ensures that all records relating to safeguarding concerns are accurate and relevant. These are stored confidentially with access only to those with a need to know.

Sharing information, with the right people, is central to good practice in safeguarding adults. This does not automatically include the person's spouse, partner, adult, child, unpaid or paid carer. Information will only be shared with family and friends and / or carers with the consent of the adult or if the adult does not have capacity to make that decision and family / friends / carers need to know to help keep the person safe.

There are many situations where it is legal to share information about adult safeguarding concerns outside of Prime Acrobatics. Important personal information can be shared with the consent of the adult concerned; however, the adult may not always want information to be shared. This may be because they fear repercussions from the person causing harm or are scared that they will lose control of their situation to statutory bodies. Their wishes should be respected unless there are over-riding reasons for sharing information.

The circumstances when we need to share information without the adult's consent include those where:

 Prime Acrobatics	Safeguarding Adults in Sport Policy	
	Version Date:	21-July-2025
	Version:	2
	Responsibility:	Chris Bowler

- It is not safe to contact the adult to gain their consent i.e. it might put them or the person making contact at further risk.
- You believe they or someone else is at risk, including children.
- You believe the adult is being coerced or is under duress.
- It is necessary to contact the police to prevent a crime, or to report that a serious crime has been committed.
- The adult does not have the mental capacity to consent to information being shared about them.
- The person causing harm has care and support needs.
- The concerns are about an adult at risk living in Wales or Northern Ireland (where there is a duty to report to the Local Authority).

When information is shared without the consent of the adult, this must be explained to them, when it is safe to do so, and any further actions should still fully include them. If you are in doubt as to whether to share information, seek legal advice and / or contact the Local Authority and explain the situation without giving personal details about the person at risk or the person causing harm.

Any decision to share or not to share information with an external person or organisation must be recorded together with the reasons to share or not share information.

15. Sources of Information and Support

Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board – <https://www.surreysab.org.uk>

If you have a concern about an adult or if you suspect somebody is being abused or neglected, don't ignore it – report it. In an emergency, dial 999 for the police.

If you are concerned about an adult with care and support needs, who is at risk or / or is being abused or neglected, this needs to be reported to Surrey County Council, Adult Social Care - <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/concerns>

- Phone: 0300 470 9100 (available 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday)
- Online for members of the public:
<https://adultsocialcareportal.surreycc.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/safepubref#headPsprGs>
- Email: ascmash@surreycc.gov.uk
- By post: Surrey MASH for Adults, Quadrant Court, 35 Guildford Road, Woking, Surrey, GU22 7QQ
- SMS: 07527 182 861 (for the deaf or hard of hearing)

Out of hours:


- Telephone: 01483 517898
- Email: edt.ssd@surreycc.gov.uk
- Text (SMS): 07800 000388 (for the deaf or hard of hearing)

National

Action on Elder Abuse – a national organisation based in London which aims to prevent the abuse of older people by raising awareness, encouraging education , promoting research and collecting and disseminating information.

Tel: 02087 657000

Email: enquiries@elderabuse.org.uk
www.elderabuse.org.uk

 Prime Acrobatics	Safeguarding Adults in Sport Policy	
	Version Date:	21-July-2025
	Version:	2
	Responsibility:	Chris Bowler

Ann Craft Trust (ACT) – a national organisation providing information and advice about adult safeguarding. ACT has a specialist Safeguarding Adults in Sport and Activity team to support the sector.

Tel: 01159 515400

Email: ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk

www.anncrafttrust.org

Men's Advice Line – for male domestic abuse survivors.

Tel: 0808 801 0327

National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline

Tel: 0800 999 5428

National 24 Hour Freephone Domestic Abuse Helpline:

Tel: 0808 2000 247

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/contact-us

Rape Crisis Federation of England and Wales – Rape Crisis was launched in 1996 and exists to provide a range of facilities and resources to enable the continuance and development of Rape Crisis Groups throughout Wales and England.

Email: info@rapecrisis.co.uk

www.rapecrisis.co.uk

Stop Hate Crime – works to challenge all forms of Hate Crime and discrimination, based on any aspect of an individual's identity. Stop Hate UK provides independent, confidential and accessible reporting and support for victims, witnesses and third parties.

24 hours service:

Telephone: 0800 138 1625

Web Chat: www.stophateuk.org/talk-to-us/

Email: talk@stophateuk.org

Text: 07717 989 025

Suzy Lamplugh Trust – the trust is a leading authority on personal safety. Its role is to minimise the damage caused to individuals and to society by aggression in all its forms – physical, verbal and psychological.

Tel: 020 83921839

Email: info@suzylamplugh.org

www.suzylamplugh.org

Victim Support – provides practical advice and help, emotional support and reassurance to those who have suffered the effects of a crime.

Tel: 0808 1689111

www.victimsupport.com

Women's Aid Federation of England and Wales – Women's Aid is a national domestic violence charity

www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support

Date	Summary of changes	Signed
July 2025	Changed responsibility for document to Chris Bowler.	C.Bowler