



Here in Sheffield, we strive to make sure that every child has a positive experience when participating in sport, physical and extra-curricular activities. Every child and young person has a right to have fun and enjoy taking part in activities without the risk of being harmed or abused.

**Parents, before booking an extracurricular club or activity for your child, it's useful to check these things:**

Always check whether the club or organisation is accredited or otherwise affiliated to a body (e.g. a sports governing body or national voluntary sector) as this should mean they have the right safeguarding policies and procedures in place. Even if they are accredited, there are some key things to look for to ensure they take children's safety seriously.

- Review their website or the information you may have been sent. Do not be influenced by glossy flyers, smiley children in pictures and lots of quotes from 'satisfied' parents.
- Look for safeguarding policies – these should be fully accessible, visible and readily available on their website. Hard copies should also be available on request. If they are not visible or available, then please think twice about sending your child into the care of someone who does not have safeguarding arrangements in place.
- Check if they have a code of conduct/practice for sport coaches – this code provides a guide for good and safe coaching practice. A good code will be incorporated into the club and its policies, procedures, governance and training and will not be a stand-alone document

- First Aid procedures – what happens if a child is taken ill? What are the club’s policies and how many people at the club have full first aid certificates?
- Is there a designated welfare officer/safeguarding lead? – find out who the point of contact is that you or child can speak to if you have any concerns or worries.
- Parents/carers should speak with their child/children often to ensure they are happy and have no concerns. Maintaining an open dialogue with your child/children is very important.

Useful links: • Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership - <https://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/> • NWG Network – <https://www.nwgnetwork.org/>

- Sport England - <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/safeguarding> • The Child Protection in Sport Unit - <https://thecpsu.org.uk/>
- Ann Craft Trust - <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/>

## **What to do if you have a concern?**

If you are worried about a child, have concerns about a club or coach and/or concerns about inappropriate behaviour by anyone involved in a sports club or physical activity setting in Sheffield, then please raise these concerns immediately by reaching out to the Council’s Safeguarding Teams using the various methods below:

- Safeguarding Hub on 0114 273 4855 (24 hours)- Children
- Sheffield’s First Contact team 0114 2734908-Adults • If you are concerned about an individual or see something suspicious contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or South Yorkshire Police on 101.
- If you feel it is an emergency that requires immediate attention or someone is at immediate risk of harm, please call South Yorkshire Police without delay on 999. Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership can be contacted at [SCSPsafeguardinglicensing@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:SCSPsafeguardinglicensing@sheffield.gov.uk) NWG – the National Safeguarding Charity can also be contacted for further advice and support on 01332 585 371, or by visiting [www.nwgnetwork.org](http://www.nwgnetwork.org)