



Responsibility for child safeguarding in the ASA

The responsibility for child safeguarding within the ASA lies with all adults who work with or have responsibility for children in our sport.

Shown below are the roles within the ASA who have specific responsibility for safeguarding children in aquatics.

ASA Chief Executive

The Chief Executive has the ultimate responsibility, together with the ASA Board for child safeguarding.

The ASA Board ratifies changes to ASA Regulations in respect of all matters including child safeguarding and protection.

The ASA Chief Executive is the only person in the ASA with the power to suspend an individual ASA member either temporarily or for a specified term in respect of a child safeguarding issue. The Chief Executive will do so on the advice of the Director of Regulatory and Legal Affairs, Legal Affairs Department and the ASA Child Safeguarding Team.

Legal Affairs Department

The ASA has an in house Legal Department, which has prime responsibility for the formulation of regulations in relation to child safeguarding. It also has responsibility for managing cases in conjunction with the ASA Child Safeguarding Team and for bringing disciplinary cases before the ASA's judiciary. The team is headed by the ASA Director of Regulatory and Legal Affairs, Andy Gray. Andy is a solicitor, has had a keen interest in child safeguarding in sport since the mid 1990s and has lectured and spoken widely on the subject. Andy is also Head of the Sports Law Unit at Leicester De Montfort University Law School.

The Legal Affairs Department actively takes a lead in sharing best practice in child safeguarding with the world of sport as a whole.

ASA Child Safeguarding Team

The team is made up the ASA Independent Child Protection Officer (ICPO) and the National Child Safeguarding Coordinator (NCSC).

Barbara Barrett is the ASA Independent Child Protection Officer and is contracted to the ASA on a part time basis. Barbara is a qualified and experienced child safeguarding professional and deals with cases and enquiries of a safeguarding nature.

Jenni Dearman is the ASA National Child Safeguarding Coordinator and is employed full time by the ASA based in the Legal Affairs Department. Jenni is studying Law with the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives and has worked in child safeguarding with Barbara for the past 5 years advising clubs and ASA members on a wide range of child welfare and safeguarding issues.

All ASA clubs and members can discuss their concerns with the ICPO or NCSC and will be offered advice and guidance on action to be taken in safeguarding and welfare issues. In some situations the ICPO and NCSC may become directly involved with the club, normally through the club Welfare Officer to try and resolve the issues.

The ASA Safeguarding Team are responsible for writing Wavepower and are actively involved in promoting and sharing best safeguarding practice with other sports organisations.

The ASA holds the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Advanced Standard for Safeguarding Children in Sport. The Safeguarding Team are responsible for maintaining and embedding that standard. Moving forward the ASA is working as a pilot organisation with Sport England and the CPSU on the new safeguarding framework for funded sports.

The ASA ICPO has conduct of the ASA Child Welfare Complaints Procedure. This procedure is available to all members and is published in full in the ASA Handbook and at www.swimming.org.

Should the ASA Safeguarding Team believe their advice has been dismissed, and in so doing Wavepower the ASA Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures has been breached the ICPO can raise a complaint against the club or individual member to the ASA Judiciary.



Club, County and Regional Welfare Officers

The volunteers who perform the Welfare Officer role are a vital part of the ASA Child Safeguarding Team. They are often the first point of contact on the ground for ASA members and parents of members who have a child safeguarding concern and they ensure that any such concerns are addressed by following the procedures and practices in Wavepower and the ASA Regulations. Many Welfare Officers have experience in child safeguarding through their professional employment outside of the ASA and this knowledge and experience can be invaluable when handling the wide range of concerns and enquires they are faced with.

At the request of the Legal Affairs Department or the Safeguarding Team, County and Regional Welfare Officers can become directly involved with child safeguarding issues often to support a club Welfare Officer. They may meet with the individuals or lead meetings with parties to try to directly resolve the issues presented.

Welfare Officers can discuss any concerns with the ICPO and NCSC at any time for help and advice.

A full role description of the club, county and regional Welfare Officer can be found in the section 2 toolbox.

Swimliner volunteers

The ASA Swimline Child Protection helpline is a freephone helpline that anyone involved in aquatics can contact for help and advice on any child safeguarding issues.

On contacting Swimline callers are asked to leave their contact details and a brief description of their concern. The caller will be contacted within 48 hours by either a Swimliner or the ASA Safeguarding Team.

Callers also have the opportunity to transfer straight through to the NSPCC Helpline should they require assistance immediately.

Swimline volunteers are qualified and experienced professionals within child protection. They have direct involvement with the ASA at club and county level and have vast experience in child safeguarding within the ASA.

At the request of the Legal Affairs Department or the Safeguarding Team, Swimliners can become directly involved with child safeguarding issues. They may meet with the individuals or lead meetings with parties to try to directly resolve the issues presented.