



## UK Wallball Association Protection of Adults at Risk Policy

### 1. Introduction

This policy is designed to dovetail with the UK Wallball Association Safeguarding Children Policy so all young people in contact with the organisation are given due care and attention. To this effect, the appendices to the Safeguarding Policy and associated flow diagrams that clearly define the responsibilities of UK Wallball Association staff in relation to safeguarding are to be applied to when working with adults at risk. References in these documents to 'young people' can be replaced with 'adults at risk'.

These flow diagrams are to be provided to all staff members as part of their induction to UK Wallball Association, through training on good governance.

Where UK Wallball Association is directly responsible for delivery, these flow diagrams form part of the relevant paperwork and are present in staff paperwork/briefings linked to the delivery clarifying their responsibilities to adults at risk.

Once a person reaches the age of 18 under U.K. law that person is legally an adult regardless of any disability or impairment they may experience. This policy is based on the following principle that all adults have the right to:

- Live their lives free from fear, violence, harassment, humiliation, degradation, abuse, and neglect;
- Be safeguarded from harm and exploitation;
- Be treated with dignity and respect, protected from mistreatment and abuse;
- Live an independent lifestyle and to make choices, even if some of those choices involve a degree of risk.

The following documents provide background information and further guidance to this policy:

- No Secrets (Dept of Health 2000)
- Safeguarding Adults National Framework of Standards (ADSS publication 2005)

### **An adult at risk is defined as:**

*A person aged 18 years or over "who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take*

*care of him or herself, or protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.*

(The Lord Chancellors Department, 1997)

Thus, although UK Wallball Association does not provide specific services to clients who might be considered 'vulnerable' under this definition, the spirit of the definition



informs the organisation's practice. In addition this policy is designed to dovetail with the UK Wallball Association Safeguarding Children Policy so all young people in contact with the Project are given due care and attention.

Abuse, and the fear of abuse, has a significant impact on an individual's ability to maintain and maximise their health and wellbeing. All individuals and agencies working with, and/or having contact with adults at risk, including the general public, have a key role to play in protecting vulnerable people from abuse, exploitation and/or mistreatment.

In addition all agencies responsible for the welfare and protection of adults at risk have a role in ensuring that all people have a right of expression, protection and redress regardless of: sex; race; colour; language; religion; political or other opinion; national or social origin; sexual orientation; disability; marital status; or age. Also, adults at risk may have additional and particular needs e.g. advocacy/ communication, in relation to the execution of these rights.

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## 2. Principles

UK Wallball Association' Protection of Adults at Risk policy is guided by the following principles:

- *Promote the wellbeing, security and safety of vulnerable people consistent with his or her rights, capacity and personal responsibility, and prevent abuse occurring wherever possible;*
  - UK Wallball Association aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all;
    - Have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport
    - Are protected from abuse whilst participating in a sporting activity
- *Ensure that the processes of investigation, assessment and prevention of abuse do not constitute an abusive or harmful series of events for the vulnerable person;*
- *Ensure that the promotion of adults at risk protection is integral to the development and delivery of services by UK Wallball Association*

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## 3. Responsibilities

UK Wallball Association acknowledges the duty of care to adults at risk and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

UK Wallball Association recognises its responsibility to safeguard and promote the interests of adults at risk by actively promoting the following practices across the



organisation and wider network;

- *Identify the abuse of adults at risk where it is occurring*
- *Respond effectively in line with safeguarding or complaints procedures to any circumstances giving grounds for concern or formal complaints or expressions of anxiety*
- *Ensure the active participation of individuals, families, groups and communities wherever possible and appropriate*
- *Raise awareness of the extent and impact of abuse on adults at risk;*
- *Promote and strengthen partnerships and actions designed to reduce abuse and the fear of abuse as experienced by adults at risk;*
- *Regularly monitor and evaluate the way in which policies, procedures and practices for the protection of adults at risk are working – as a minimum, every two years*
- *Regularly review and update policies, procedures and practices to reflect the current state of knowledge in relation to the protection of adults at risk, and learning gained from experience – as a minimum every two years ;*
- *Ensure that the law and statutory requirements are known and used appropriately where necessary so that adults at risk receive the protection of the law and access to the judicial process.*

*This Policy is supported by the Boundaries for Staff policy*

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#### **4. Promoting Good Practice in working with Vulnerable Adults**

Abuse can occur within many situations including the home, school and the sporting environment. There are individuals who actively seek employment or voluntary work with adults at risk in order to harm or exploit them. More positively, a coach, instructor, official or volunteer having contact can play an important role in identifying cases where protection is needed.

All cases of poor practice should be reported to the appropriate person (see Appendix 6 of the Safeguarding Policy). All reports received will be reviewed by the relevant Designated Person within UK Wallball Association, who will determine the appropriate course of action.

All UK Wallball Association staff and volunteers are required to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to promote the welfare of adults at risk and reduce the likelihood of misinterpretation of their actions or allegations being made. All UK Wallball Association staff and volunteers are required to comply with the UK Wallball Association Code of Conduct whilst working on behalf of the organisation.



UK Wallball Association has a role to play in ensuring high standards and good practice in working with adults at risk is carried out across the youth and sport sectors. UK Wallball Association will work with partners in these sectors to share practice and learning in relation to working with adults at risk.

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## Appendices

This policy is supported by the following appendices which provide more detail on how it should be implemented in order to support the work of UK Wallball Association.

Where in these appendices, it mentions 'Safeguarding of Children and young people', it can be replaced with 'Adults at Risk' as the processes will remain the same

**Appendix 1 - UK Wallball Association and its delivery chain:** Clarification of responsibility for adults at risk within UK Wallball Association direct delivery and the wider sphere of UK Wallball Association.

**Appendix 4 - Staff and Volunteer Recruitment**

**Appendix 5 – UK Wallball Association Code of Conduct**

**Appendix 6 - Responding to and Reporting a concern –** Recognition of poor practice and the reporting procedure within the organisation

**Appendix – 7 Safeguarding Incident Report Form**

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