

Safeguarding Report 2024

Introduction

World Sailing's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures were approved by the Council at the Annual Conference 2023.

At the Annual Conference several suggestions were made to improve the Safeguarding Policy. Working with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Constitution Committee, the amended documents were put before Council at the May 2024 Mid-Year Meeting for approval.

The Council approved the amendments to the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures as circulated.

Safeguarding Policy Main Amendments Approved

- (a) Events scope – We made this much clearer. We now only have jurisdiction over World Sailing events and the Olympic Games. Our resources are limited, to do safeguarding well, you have to be at the events and on the ground to deal with incidents as they arise. We will start with this scope and if the need arises, we will expand later.
- (b) Jurisdiction - It was always intended that the definitions of affected people included attendees at WS conferences and meetings, and this is clearer now.
- (c) Membership conditions – We amended this to reflect that MNAs, Classes and Special Events shall have a safeguarding policy and that they can adopt the policy of their NOC if they do not have their own policy.
- (d) Relationship with MNA. – We made it clearer that if World Sailing does not have jurisdiction, it is the MNA of the alleged perpetrator who is responsible for handling the case, however the other MNA (victim/OA) may be kept informed as appropriate.
- (e) Ability to sanction – We made it clearer that interim sanctions can be imposed whilst a local authority case is pending and also that WS may act independently i.e., police may decide no further action, but WS may decide to take action because the threshold is not criminal, and a breach of the policy may still have been committed.
- (f) Language – We addressed all the content issues regarding inconsistencies, using preferred WS terminology and avoiding repetition.

Safeguarding Disciplinary Tribunal

- (a) In June 2024 we commenced recruitment of members for the Safeguarding Disciplinary Tribunal. A healthy number of high calibre applications were received. Interviews were conducted and the Tribunal was formally appointed in July 2024.
- (b) The Tribunal is comprised of the following members:
 - Ian Brownhill (GBR)
 - Emma Davey (IRL)

For Information

- Julien Deux (FRA)
- Marguerite Kehoe (IRL)
- Elana Liberman (CAN)
- Juanita Maiden (AUS)
- Jimena Menendez (MEX)
- Caroline Mwanzia (KEN)
- Sarra Saïdi (CAN)
- Saksham Samarth (IND)
- Victoria Wiegler (GBR)

- (c) The Tribunal is internationally representative and comprised of highly qualified experts, specifically skilled in Safeguarding. All members are volunteers.
- (d) The Tribunal will be available as and when required to determine Safeguarding cases and will be solely dedicated to this purpose.

Vetting of Staff and Officials

- (a) As a part of our safeguarding strategy, we require all staff and officials working with children and young people to undergo vetting in order that any risk to those children and young people is known and mitigated.
- (b) All UK based World Sailing Staff working at the Youth World Championships in Garda were vetted by way of DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check or, in the case of our International Staff, by way of a Self Declaration form
- (c) All officials working at the Youth World Championships in Garda were vetted by way of a Self Declaration form.

Event Risk Assessment

- (a) A first safeguarding event risk assessment was compiled for the Youth World Championships in Garda.
- (b) Work was done in conjunction with the OA in this regard to mitigate against any safeguarding incidents arising. No safeguarding incidents were reported at the event.

Education

- (a) Safeguarding education sessions and awareness initiatives were held throughout the year.
- (b) An internal World Sailing Staff safeguarding education session was held in April 2024.

- (c) A safeguarding education webinar was held as part of the World Sailing Sustainability sessions in April 2024. Attendees included MNA's, Class representatives, officials and staff.
- (d) A compulsory Team Leaders safeguarding education session was held for all Team Leaders attending the Youth World Championships pre the event in June 2024.
- (e) Safeguarding training was delivered to the World Sailing Scholarship holders in September 2024.
- (f) All World Sailing staff and officials were required to complete the IOC Athlete 365 Safeguarding Training and Certification (Prevention of Harassment and Abuse).
- (g) As part of our safeguarding awareness drive, information on safeguarding was placed in strategic places at the Youth World Championships in Garda. For example, informative stickers were placed in toilets and change rooms signposting athletes to support.

2025 Safeguarding Plan

- (a) We will be rolling out templates to MNA's and Classes to assist them in creating their own Safeguarding Policies and Procedures as well as provide general assistance to MNA's and Classes with regards to setting up procedures and advising on best practise etc.
- (b) We will continue with our education drive – with a focus on Safeguarding training for MNA's and Classes.
- (c) We will continue our Safeguarding awareness drive at the Youth World Championships as well as continue the pre-event education and risk assessment.
- (d) Integrity Manager as an expert in this area will also be available to provide advice and support to MNA and Classes in relation to cases which arise which are outside World Sailing Jurisdiction.
- (e) In keeping with the focus of the IOC we will also be developing a strategy for the promotion of athlete welfare and athlete mental health. We will discuss this with the Athletes Commission in November.

Recommendation

The Medical Commission/Athletes Commission is requested to note the report.

Gillian Sanders
Integrity Manager