

Safeguarding Report 2025

Introduction

World Sailing's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures were approved by the Council at the Annual Conference 2023. Further amendments to the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures were approved at the 2024 Mid-Year Meeting. There have been no further amendments since this, and the policy exists robustly in its current form. We continue to drive forward with our educational and awareness initiatives.

Consideration of future amendments to Policy

- (a) We intend conducting a review of the policy in early 2026, with view to the approval of any proposed amendments by the Mid-Year Meeting in May 2026.
- (b) There are limits to our jurisdiction as per our existing policy. There have been a few cases with serious allegations outside of our jurisdiction where the MNA has no Safeguarding Policy in place or where the MNA has failed to properly deal with the case. We want to ensure that there is provision in the future for these scenarios.

Safeguarding Disciplinary Tribunal

- (a) The Safeguarding Disciplinary Tribunal as appointed in July 2024 still stands, with all appointed members still actively appointed. The term of the appointments is 3 years, and will expire in July 2027, after which we will re appoint the tribunal.
- (b) We have not had to call upon the Tribunal to hear any cases as yet.

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 Athlete Development Camp in Tunisia 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 UK based World Sailing Staff working at the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura have been or will be 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.
- (d) All officials working at the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura will be vetted by way of a Self-Declaration form.

Event Risk Assessment

- (a) A safeguarding event risk assessment is currently being compiled for the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura.
- (b) Work is being done in conjunction with the OA in this regard to mitigate against any safeguarding incidents arising.
- (c) A safeguarding risk assessment was compiled for the Youth Development Camp in Tunisia. One case of poor practise was reported but dealt with before it became a risk. No other incidents were reported, and the camp was successful.

Education

- (a) Safeguarding education sessions and awareness initiatives have been and continue to be held throughout the year.
- (b) The new World Sailing Academy Safeguarding educational courses were launched on the Academy portal. These courses have been created by the Integrity Manager and provide an exciting, interactive and substantial learning experience and certificates upon completion.
- (c) World Sailing Staff have been enrolling in the new World Sailing Academy Safeguarding education courses and will be expected to complete all modules by early 2026.
- (d) Various World Sailing stakeholders, including MNA representatives, Class representatives and officials have been enrolling in the World Sailing Academy Safeguarding education courses
- (e) Team Leaders attending the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura will be expected to complete the World Sailing Academy Safeguarding course pre the event in December 2025.
- (f) The World Sailing 2025 IOC Scholarship holders have completed the World Sailing Academy Safeguarding education course.
- (g) As part of our safeguarding awareness drive, information on safeguarding will continue to be placed in strategic places at the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura and the Inclusion World Championships in Oman. Informative stickers will be placed in toilets and change rooms signposting athletes to support.
- (h) Integrity Manager completed and graduated from the IOC Safeguarding Officer in Sport Certificate.

2026 Safeguarding Plan

- (a) We will continue 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 encouraging all our stakeholders to complete the World Sailing Academy Safeguarding education course.
- (c) We will continue our Safeguarding awareness drive at the Youth World Championships and Para Inclusive 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 are in discussion with the Medical Commission and the Athletes Committee on how best to achieve this. Eg. Mindzone/Quiet area at World Championships/Olympic Qualification regattas.
- (f) We will continue to promote our educational courses on the World Sailing Academy and as a minimum require mandatory completion by: World Sailing Staff; World Sailing Officials; Competitors and Support Staff at Youth World Championships in 2026.
- (g) We will deliver Safeguarding awareness education to the World Sailing Board in 2026.

Recommendation

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

Gillian Sanders
Integrity Manager