

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Officer

All members of Welsh Gymnastics have a responsibility to ensure that the sport is safe and enjoyable for all.

Every club and environment affiliated with Welsh Gymnastics must have a designated Safeguarding and Wellbeing Officer (SWO). This is an immensely important role, in which the SWO must ensure that safeguarding is embedded throughout the gymnastics environment, create positive change and advocate on behalf of those who may not be able to voice their concerns.

Key Principles of the SWO role are:

- The gymnasts welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
- Everyone has a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their [Protected characteristics](#).
- All suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse must be taken seriously and responded to efficiently and appropriately.
- To ensure that staff, coaches, parents' and other adults are good role models and adhere to the Welsh Gymnastics Codes of Conduct.
- To work in partnership with club members, parents/carers, club staff and volunteers as well as those working in related organisations such as Welsh Gymnastics.

It is everyone's duty to respond to and report concerns in line with statutory guidance ([Safeguarding Wales](#)). The SWO is responsible for ensuring that individuals within the club environment are aware of this and feel confident and supported to report any concerns about themselves or others.

It is the SWO's responsibility to:

- Notice and respond appropriately and swiftly when there are concerns about abuse or the welfare of a child, young person or adult. This responsibility equally applies to concerns about an individual's life at home, in school and other environments, and concerns around treatment by family, peers or professionals.
- Stand up and speak out about any poor practice that is reported to you or that you observe.
- Ensure your club environment is implementing the policies and procedures outlined by Welsh Gymnastics.
- Ensure that all identified level 1 and level 2 safeguarding cases are shared promptly with Welsh Gymnastics Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team.
- Seek advice and support from Welsh Gymnastics Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team if unclear what action to take.

SWO Role Requirements

- There must be at least one SWO within every environment
- One SWO MUST NOT have any conflicts of interest. This includes holding another role within the club such as owner/manager or coach or having a spouse or close family member in any of these roles.
- Every SWO MUST have Safeguarding and Protecting Children training, Time to Listen training, minimum bronze membership and a current valid DBS.
- A SWO must be in attendance in the club environment regularly.
- A SWO MUST be always available during your environment's working hours.

Gymnastic Environment Responsibilities

- SWO details and how to report a concern MUST be clearly advertised in every gymnastics environment. This includes a photograph of the SWO, their contact telephone number and email address as well as the Globocol Club Portal link and Welsh Gymnastics report a concern link [Safeguarding and Wellbeing - Welsh Gymnastics](#).
- All gymnastics environments MUST follow the safe recruitment policy when recruiting SWO's.

- It is the responsibility of the club manager to ensure that every SWO has the relevant training, membership, and DBS. It is also their responsibility to ensure that the SWO receives ongoing training and support.
- If a SWO leaves their role or a new SWO is appointed, it is the club manager's responsibility to update Sport80 to reflect these changes promptly.

Remember, safeguarding is never managed alone. You should always reach out to the Welsh Gymnastics Safeguarding and Wellbeing team for support and guidance.

Contact Us

Telephone: 02920 334978/0300 300 3127 – ask for the Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team.

Email: safeguarding@welshgymnastics.org

Report a concern: [Safeguarding and Wellbeing - Welsh Gymnastics](#).

Where an immediate or serious concern is raised it should be directly reported to the police on 999 and then notified to Welsh Gymnastics. Your local authority will also have helplines for raising concerns about children or adults. Advice out of hours is available from the NSPCC help line on 08088005000 or your Local Authority Council website.