



British Sumo: Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

British Sumo is committed to ensuring a safe and positive environment for all participants in the sport of sumo wrestling, especially children and vulnerable adults. This Safeguarding Policy outlines our approach to safeguarding, setting clear expectations for all members, and ensuring that any concerns about the welfare of participants are addressed promptly and appropriately.

This policy applies to all members of British Sumo, including athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and anyone who has direct or indirect contact with children or vulnerable adults within the sport of sumo.

Safeguarding Principles

The Welfare of the Individual is Paramount

The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is the top priority. All participants, regardless of age, gender, ability, or background, have the right to be protected from harm, abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Respect and Dignity

Everyone involved in sumo must be treated with respect and dignity. Discriminatory, harmful, or abusive behaviour, whether intentional or unintentional, will not be tolerated.

Zero Tolerance to Abuse

British Sumo has a zero-tolerance policy towards abuse in any form, including physical, emotional, sexual, or neglectful behaviour. Any form of abuse will be treated seriously, and appropriate actions will be taken.

Safe Recruitment and Vetting

All staff, coaches, and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults must undergo a safe recruitment process, including background checks (e.g., DBS checks), to ensure they are suitable for their roles.

Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

British Sumo will appoint a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) who will be responsible for safeguarding within the organisation. The DSO will:

- Ensure compliance with the safeguarding policy.
- Provide guidance and support for members on safeguarding issues.
- Handle and investigate safeguarding concerns or complaints.
- Be the first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns.

Coaches and Officials

Coaches, officials, and volunteers must:

- Ensure that all training, coaching, and competitions are conducted in a safe and supportive environment.
- Report any concerns or disclosures of abuse or harm promptly to the DSO.
- Never engage in inappropriate behaviour or create situations that could be misinterpreted.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries with children and vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that changing facilities are supervised appropriately and that children are safe and comfortable.

Parents/Guardians

Parents/guardians must:

- Ensure their child's safety and well-being at all times.
- Be supportive of British Sumo's safeguarding policies and ensure that their child understands and follows the code of conduct.
- Notify British Sumo if their child has any special needs or medical conditions that may require additional care or attention.

All Members

All members must:

- Uphold the principles of safeguarding in every aspect of their involvement in sumo.

- Maintain awareness of British Sumo's safeguarding policy and procedures.
 - Support a safe environment by promoting positive behaviours and reporting concerns.
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Creating a Safe Environment

Safe Training and Competition Practices

- Ensure that all training and competition venues are safe, appropriate, and accessible.
- Maintain appropriate ratios of adults to children during training and events.
- Avoid one-on-one training situations where the interaction could be misconstrued.

Changing Rooms and Facilities

- Ensure that changing rooms and other private spaces are appropriately supervised.
- Separate changing facilities for male and female participants should be provided where possible, with appropriate adult supervision outside the changing areas.
- Coaches and officials should not enter changing areas unless absolutely necessary and should do so with respect for privacy and dignity.

Use of Social Media and Technology

- Coaches, officials, and volunteers should not have private or inappropriate communications with children or vulnerable adults through social media or personal messaging platforms.
- All interactions should be professional and conducted through appropriate channels.

Photography and Filming

- Photography or filming during training or events should be conducted with the knowledge and consent of the participant and their parents/guardians.
 - British Sumo encourages members to be mindful of the ethical use of images, ensuring that they do not exploit or misrepresent participants.
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Reporting and Responding to Concerns

Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

- If any member has a concern about the safety or well-being of a participant, they should report it to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) immediately.
- Concerns can be reported directly to the DSO, via email, in person at events, or through the British Sumo website's safeguarding portal.

Responding to Disclosures or Allegations

- If a participant discloses abuse or harm, the person receiving the disclosure should listen carefully, remain calm, and reassure the individual that they will be taken seriously.
- The person receiving the disclosure should make a written record of what was said and report it immediately to the DSO.
- Allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and investigated promptly and thoroughly, with the safety and well-being of the individual as the primary concern.

Confidentiality

- Safeguarding concerns will be treated confidentially, with information shared only with relevant parties, such as the DSO, authorities, or support services, as needed.
- Information will only be disclosed in line with the relevant legal or regulatory frameworks.

Investigations and Actions

- British Sumo will follow a clear and transparent procedure when investigating safeguarding concerns or allegations. This may involve working with local authorities or external agencies as appropriate.
- If a safeguarding concern is substantiated, British Sumo will take appropriate action, which may include suspending the individual involved while the investigation takes place.

Training and Education

Safeguarding Training for Coaches and Officials

- All coaches, officials, and volunteers will receive regular safeguarding training and updates to ensure they are aware of best practices and how to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns.
- Training will cover topics such as child protection, identifying signs of abuse, and appropriate conduct with children and vulnerable adults.

Awareness and Education for Participants

- British Sumo will educate participants (both children and adults) on their rights and responsibilities, as well as how to report concerns or ask for help if needed.
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Review of Safeguarding Policy

This Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains up to date with best practices and legislative changes. All members will be informed of any updates or amendments to the policy.

Conclusion

British Sumo is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all participants. By adhering to this Safeguarding Policy, we can ensure that sumo wrestling remains a safe, enjoyable, and positive experience for children and vulnerable adults, and that any concerns are handled swiftly and appropriately.