NASA Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding is the action of promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk to protect them from harm.

NASA have a moral and legal obligation to ensure that safeguarding is in action.

Through the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy document and with the support of its clubs, committees and volunteers, NASA will maintain the professionalism and safeguarding of good practice, which are associated with our sport.

Everyone involved in Autograss has a part to play in supporting the enjoyment and safety of its participants. Safeguarding is making sure that all club members can do what they love. All people, regardless of disability, should be able to be part of the motorsport community free from all forms of harassment and abuse. NASA takes the issue of safeguarding very seriously and wants to support clubs in ensuring that the correct steps to provide a safe motorsport environment are taken.

NASA has a dedicated Safeguarding team, not only to ensure that as a National Governing Body we meet our statutory and moral obligation in this area but also to support the growing demands of our members, clubs and communities. The Safeguarding Team is made up of the NASA Safety Team and Directors all of which have relevant safeguarding training and DBS checks.

As well as support in the event of a safeguarding case or incident, the Safeguarding Team also works to develop training and resources to increase awareness, train Club Safeguarding Officers and promote a positive culture in Autosport. It is important that we meet both the statutory obligations placed on us by law, and also our moral duties to enable children, young people, and adults at risk to participate in Autosport in a safe way. Everyone in the club should be aware of how they can keep club members safe and promote their welfare. Some of the types of abuse that people in the community might face include:

* Physical abuse
* Sexual abuse
* Emotional abuse
* Neglect

Safeguarding is an evolving journey for everyone involved in motorsport in the UK.

Although the legislation is unique for each of the four nations, the underlying principles are the same:

* Children have the right to be safe.
* Organisations have duties to prevent harm to children by promoting their welfare and wellbeing.
* Concerns that a child is at risk of harm should be reported to appropriate agencies at the earliest opportunity.
* All individual’s whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.
* All suspicions and allegations of inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
* As defined in the Children Act 1989, anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purposes of this policy.

Abuse is a very difficult situation for all and having the right systems in place can help all concerned. NASA has appointed people to fulfil the role of Safeguarding Officer(s).

Their role will be to offer advice in the prevention of abuse, issue guidelines on how to deal with the discovery of abuse, follow agreed procedures and develop systems which allow complaints to be heard.

All personnel within sport should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour to protect themselves from false allegations.

The following are common sense examples of how to create a positive culture and climate within sport:

Good Practice means:

* Always working in an open environment, hence avoiding private or unobserved situations.
* Treating all people equally and with respect and dignity.
* Making Autograss fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play.
* Involving parents / guardians wherever possible.
* If children have to be interviewed ensure officials work in pairs.
* Ensuring that children should be accompanied by parents / guardians preferably with a member of the same sex.
* Try to always set a good example in your behaviour.
* Be aware of any medicines being taken by participants or any existing injuries.
* Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of treatment given.
* You should never:
* Engage in rough, physical, or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
* Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
* Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
* Make sexually suggestive comments to an individual, even in fun.
* Do things of a personal nature that individuals can do for themselves.

Tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of parents / guardians and in an emergency, parents/ guardians should be fully informed. It is important to ensure all officials are sensitive to the individual and undertake personal care tasks with the utmost discretion.

The role of the Club Safeguarding Officer is crucial in ensuring that the Autograss Safeguarding Policy and Implementation Procedures work in practice, following the duties of a safeguarding (see separate document).

The Safeguarding Officer therefore aims to be perceived as being approachable and as having a focussed approach.

The Safeguarding Officer is not perceived to be an “expert” Ideally, they have a background in working with vulnerable people such as teachers, childminders, social workers, Police child protection team officers, or child health workers.

What should a Safeguarding Officer do if there are allegations of abuse?

Always:

* Stay calm - ensure the individual is safe and feels safe.
* Show and tell the individual that you are taking what they say seriously.
* Reassure the individual and stress that they are not to blame.
* Be honest: explain that you will have to tell the appropriate safeguarding board to help stop the alleged abuse.
* Complete required paperwork of what the individual has said as soon as possible after the event.
* Maintain confidentiality - only tell others if it will help protect the individual.

Never:

* Rush into actions that may be inappropriate.
* Make promises you cannot keep.
* Ask inappropriate questions, which may jeopardise any impending police investigation.
* Take sole responsibility - consult someone else so you can begin to protect the individual and gain support for yourself.
* When recording information, it is important that the safeguarding officer does not carry the process beyond gathering.
* Information about the allegation, into beginning an investigation. Unnecessary interviews with individual complainants could prejudice the integrity of evidence that may eventually have to be presented in court. Care should be taken that appropriate means are used to find out what the allegation is about without "leading" the individual.

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| England, Scotland and Wales |
| Access correct LSCB website to find details of the local multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH/family Front Door). Online search “Portal” “MASH Team for” and enter postal county name |
| Call the local Family Front Door /MASH team for support. |
| They may take the information verbally or request their multiagency referral form (MARF) is completed online. These forms and the way they are submitted vary across geographical areas. |
| Complete and submit the form as advised by LSCB. |

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| Northern Ireland |
| Access correct Gateway Team. Information available at [Gateway Service Teams contact details | nidirect](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/gateway-service-teams-contact-details) |
| Call the Gateway Team for support and to request the form. |
| They will take information verbally but will also send their local form via email upon request. |
| Complete and submit the form as advised by Gateway Team |

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| Southern Ireland |
| Access HSE's National Safeguarding Office at (061) 461 358. The HSE has Safeguarding and Protection Teams in place in every region of the country. You can also contact the HSE Information Line on 1800 700 700. If confidentiality is required, phone the Garda confidential line on 1800 666 111. |
| Call HSE's National Safeguarding Office at (061) 461 358. |
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| Complete and submit the form as advised by office. |

For further information, please contact the Safeguarding Team at [Safeguarding@nationalautograss.co.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@nationalautograss.co.uk)

Appendix @-

Safeguarding Officer

Referral to Safeguarding Officer

Jan 2024

NASA Safeguarding – Referral to Safeguarding Officer

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date |  | Time | Venue |
| Person Receiving the Referral |  | | |
| Person Making Referral |  | | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Person |  |  |  |
| Person’s Date of Birth |  | Person’s Age |  |
| Nature of concern: | | | |
| Time of incident |  | People present |  |
| Time reported |  |  |  |
| Any injuries / incidents: | | | |
| Referral to be Made: Y/N  Rationale: | | | |
| Any other action to be taken in relation to child/family: | | | |
| Any other action to be taken in relation to NASA: | | | |

Signed ……………………………………………………. Name………………………………………………………………

NASA Signed……………………………………………. Name…………………………………………………………….

Jan 24