

Wildfire Cheer C.I.C. Child Protection Policy



Wildfire Cheer C.I.C. acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and relevant safeguarding guidance.

This policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of cheerleading at Wildfire Cheer C.I.C. in a safe and child centred environment.
- are protected from abuse and bullying whilst participating in cheerleading.

Wildfire Cheer C.I.C. acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Wildfire Cheer C.I.C. will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- ensure all coaches and volunteers understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate guidance to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- ensure all coaches and volunteers have a clear, enhanced and up to date DBS check.
- ensure that all lead coaches have attended a local authority approved safeguarding course and have an appropriate and up to date first aid qualification.
- ensure that all lead coaches have attended an appropriate cheerleading coaching course; are aware of the risks of injury involved in cheerleading and do their utmost to keep this risk to a minimum.
- not require or allow any coach – lead, assistant or volunteer, to coach skills which are beyond their ability and training. Assistant coaches and volunteers will always be supervised by a lead coach.
- ensure that all coaches and volunteers do not communicate inappropriately online and avoid private conversations online with children under the age of 18.
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals by requiring all employees and volunteers to possess a DBS certificate.
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Wildfire Cheer C.I.C. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and/or any future UK Sport recognised cheerleading NGB.
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

(Last reviewed August 2019)

Signed: Hannah Bottomley
Director and Head Coach, Wildfire Cheer C.I.C.