BRITISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL REFEREES ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Safeguarding Statement

British American Football Referees Association (BAFRA) Limited acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and British American Football Association (BAFA) requirements.

[Note - In all instances the use of the word “Child or “Children” should be taken to mean all persons under the age of 18.]

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and vulnerable adults 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, for all those who participate

• have a right to have fun and be protected from harm in a safe environment.

• are protected from abuse whilst participating in the sport as a BAFRA member or outside of the activity.

BAFRA acknowledges that some children, including disabled children, young people and vulnerable adults 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 BAFRA will

• promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children, young people, and vulnerable adults

• ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify, and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

• 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 appointment/deployment of unsuitable individuals

• ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in BAFRA, this will include education and training so that all members are aware of and can adhere to good practice and code of conduct guidelines defined by BAFA, Sport England and the NSPCC.

Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in disciplinary procedures as stated in the Disciplinary Policy.

Reporting of concerns

The BAFRA Safeguarding Officer`s name and contact details are available as the first point of contact for Officials, and volunteers is in the Members' Handbook which is available publicly on the BAFRA website.

[Note: The BAFRA Safeguarding Officer is the main point of contact within BAFRA for the BAFA Safeguarding team and any relevant external agencies in connection with Child Welfare]

BAFRA is committed to ensuring that all suspicions, concerns and allegations are taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

Anyone connected with British American Football have the opportunity to voice any concerns which they have about possible suspected child abuse, and/or poor practice by contacting the BAFRA Safeguarding Officer. **[Note this will be in accordance with statutory guidance and in accordance with pre-defined safeguarding and child protection procedures as defined by BAFA, Statutory Agencies and Local Safeguarding Children Board LSCB guidelines and policies.]**

Any concern or allegation made shall remain confidential relating to child welfare matters is restricted to the BAFRA Safeguarding Officer and the appropriate external authorities as specified within BAFA Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.

Other safeguarding concerns may be about adult participants who are being harmed or at risk of harm, yet who are not always considered to be an Adult at Risk.

This can lead to some confusion.

What should you do?

How should you respond?

Where do your responsibilities lie?

This will be addressed in our policy and procedures. There can also be uncertainty about how to support or manage situations where someone's wellbeing is our concern.

Policy and procedures define what role we should play in supporting someone's wellbeing. Situations where there is an Adult at Risk will involve the using our own policies and procedures – e.g. code of conducts.

This is in addition to and in parallel with any actions the Local Authority and the police might take. There may be situations concerning people who don't meet the criteria for being referred to the Local Authority as an Adult at Risk, but who are nonetheless at risk of harm. In

those situations, we may also need to use internal policies and procedures while signposting to external support organisations.

Policies and procedures must go beyond situations when someone is considered an Adult at Risk. We need to consider when someone doesn't meet the criteria for an Adult at Risk, yet they have been harmed or they're at risk of harm?

To reduce confusion and avoid gaps we need to ensure we have consistency, interconnection and transparency between all policies and procedures.

A broader safeguarding adults in British American Football and procedure that encompasses the remit of keeping all adults safe from harm is consistent with the duty of care to all athletes and participants.

Related policies and procedures This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures at https://www.bafra.info/info/handbook/policy/index.php

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every two 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 Home Country Sports Councils and British American Football Association (BAFA)

• as a result of any other significant change or event.

• Ensuring the BAFRA Safeguarding Officer attends all training modules required by BAFA & the NSPCC, so that they have the necessary skills to be able to undertake their role effectively.

Safeguarding adults at risk Safeguarding is about creating an environment that keeps all adults who are part of BAFRA safe from harm. The safeguarding policy reflects our commitment to creating a safe environment for everyone. Policies and procedures support BAFRA to make decisions about addressing any concerns.

Safeguarding concerns will be about the safety of Adults at Risk as defined in the relevant legislation. Where this is the case, we will address these concerns in partnership with the relevant Local Authority.

Further information and guidance may be obtained at:

https://www.anncrafttrust.org

BAFRA Contact details

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BAFRA lead for safeguarding

TThis policy was last reviewed on: 5th July 2025

Signed: ***Graham Smith***. Date: 5th July 2025