November 2026
For Information

Safeguarding Report 2026

Introduction

World Sailing's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures were approved by the Council at the Annual Conference 2023. Amendments to the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures were approved at the 2024 Mid-Year Meeting. Further amendments were approved by Council in June 2026. We anticipate a further review in early 2027 to account for the Safeguarding Disciplinary Tribunal re appointment process. We continue to drive forward with our educational and awareness initiatives.

Amendments to Policy

(a) We conducted a review of the policy in early 2026, with a view to the amendments being approved at the Council at Mid-Year.

(b) Two amendments were made and approved by Council. The first being a mandatory requirement for MNA's to have a safeguarding policy in place by April 2027, failing which, sanctions may be applied. The second, provides an extension to the scope of World Sailing's jurisdiction where an MNA has no Safeguarding Policy in place or where the MNA has failed to properly deal with the case. World Sailing can now step in, on a discretionary basis, to handle such matters.

Safeguarding Disciplinary Tribunal

(a) The Safeguarding Disciplinary Tribunal as appointed in July 2024 still stands, with all appointed members still actively appointed. The term of the appointments is 3 years, and will expire in July 2027. We will therefore need to re appoint the tribunal, with this process commencing early 2027.

(b) The appointment process of the new tribunal members for July 2027 to July 2030 needs to be set out more clearly in the Safeguarding Policy. This is the proposed amendment we need to consider in early 2027.

Vetting of Staff and Officials

(a) As a part of our safeguarding strategy, we require all staff and officials working with children and young people to undergo vetting in order that any risk to those children and young people is known and mitigated.

(b) All UK based World Sailing Staff working at the Youth Athlete Development Camp in Tunisia and Algeria were vetted by way of DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check or, in the case of our International Staff, by way of a Self-Declaration form.

(c) All UK based World Sailing Staff working at the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura have been or will be vetted by way of DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check or, in the case of our International Staff, by way of a Self-Declaration form.

(d) All officials working at the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura will be vetted by way of a Self-Declaration form**.**

Event Risk Assessment

(a) A safeguarding event risk assessment is currently being compiled for the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura. This will closely follow the risk assessment conducted at this same event and venue as last year.

(b) Work is being done in conjunction with the OA in this regard to mitigate against any safeguarding incidents arising. The Vilamoura OA were extremely cooperative and collaborative in 2025 in this regard and we trust this will be the same in 2026. The event largely ran without any major safeguarding concerns.

(c) A safeguarding risk assessment was compiled for both the Youth Development Camps in Tunisia and Algeria respectively.

Education

(a) Safeguarding education sessions and awareness initiatives have been and continue to be held throughout the year.

(b) The World Sailing Academy Safeguarding educational courses were expanded upon from 2025 and continue to be available at no charge on the Academy portal. These expanded courses were created by the Integrity Manager and provide an exciting, interactive and substantial learning experience and certificates upon completion.

(c) World Sailing Staff have been enrolling in the World Sailing Academy Safeguarding education courses.

(d) Various World Sailing stakeholders, including MNA representatives, Class representatives and officials have been enrolling in the World Sailing Academy Safeguarding education courses

(e) Team Leaders attending the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura will be expected to complete the World Sailing Academy Safeguarding course pre the event in December 2026.

(f) The World Sailing 2026 IOC Scholarship holders have completed the World Sailing Academy Safeguarding education course.

(g) As part of our safeguarding awareness drive, information on safeguarding will continue to be placed in strategic places at the Youth World Championships in Vilamoura. Informative stickers will be placed in toilets and change rooms signposting athletes to support.

(h) The Athletes Committee are in the infancy stages of developing an Athlete App, where Safeguarding resources and signposting will be available.

(i) The Integrity Manager completed and gained certification from the IOC for the Train the Trainers Safeguarding course that equips the Integrity Manager to provide basic safeguarding education to Safeguarding Focal Points.

2027 Safeguarding Plan

(a) We will continue to provide assistance to MNA's and Classes in creating their own Safeguarding Policies and Procedures as well as provide general information on best practise.

(b) We will continue with our education drive – with a focus on encouraging all our stakeholders to complete the World Sailing Academy Safeguarding education course.

(c) We will continue our Safeguarding awareness drive at the Youth World Championships and Para Inclusive World Championships as well as continue the pre-event education and risk assessment.

(d) Integrity Manager as an expert in this area will also be available to provide general support to MNA and Classes in relation to cases which arise which are outside World Sailing Jurisdiction.

(e) In keeping with the focus of the IOC we will also be developing a strategy for the promotion of athlete welfare and athlete mental health. We are in discussion with the Medical Commission and the Athletes Committee on how best to achieve this. Eg. Mindzone/Quiet area at World Championships/Olympic Qualification regattas.

(f) We will continue to promote our educational courses on the World Sailing Academy and as a minimum require mandatory completion by: World Sailing Staff; World Sailing Officials; Competitors and Support Staff at Youth World Championships in 2027.

(g) We intend deliver Safeguarding awareness education to the World Sailing Board in 2027.

(h) A dedicated IF Safeguarding accreditation has been introduced for LA 2028, emphasising the focus of the IOC on Safeguarding and Athlete Mental Health at the games. Accreditation holders are required to hold the IOC Safeguarding Certificate qualification.

Gillian Sanders

Integrity Manager

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