

Cumberland & Westmorland Wrestling Association

Child Protection Policy and Procedures



This policy recognises the obligations and duty of care by the CWWA to children. A child is anyone under the age of 18 years. This policy applies to all concerned with Cumberland & Westmorland Style Wrestling including officials, coaches, club leaders, organisers and fellow competitors. The Development Plan recognises the requirement for Qualified Coaches to have attended an accredited course in Child Protection and to have obtained clearance through the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

The aim of the policy is to encourage the development of good practice to prevent the neglect/abuse of children while in wrestling competition or practice. It is also to protect those working with children from unfounded accusations and from behaving in ways which may be well intended but inadvisable, and to enable the Association to carry out its duty of care. It is recognised that those in contact are all volunteers but as adults they are in a position of trust in relation to the child.

Continued compliance with regulations and guidelines on the protection of children includes:

- CRB/DBS checks being undertaken, recorded and renewed when required
- Child Protection training and recording
- Following CPSU safeguarding guidelines and updates
- Checking that the Policy is up to date and relevant

By nature the sport is often recorded be it by still photography or moving picture. No more information than the child's name should be given. In some cases a parent/guardian may object to an image of their child being used and this objection should always be adhered to.

Children are expected to follow the **Code of Conduct for Children & Young People** (enc).

It is mandatory that **Parental/Guardian Consent Form** (enc.) be completed for children under the age of 18 years to take part in coaching sessions. Additionally, any child under the age of 8 years must be accompanied by an adult at these sessions. Those wishing to take part who are 18 years and over must complete a **Consent Form** (enc). There must always be at least one adult present per 10 young people. One to one coaching without the presence of another adult should be avoided. The purpose of the Parent/Guardian Consent Form is to ensure that the parent/guardian is fully aware of the scope of the event and provides them with a point of contact, as well as providing the parent with the opportunity to provide the leader with any information regarding the child that the parent/guardian thinks relevant. It is recommended that these consent forms be kept in the possession of the leader at the event. General Consent Forms covering a series of Coaching events are acceptable.

There are opportunities for children to take part in competitions and coaching abroad. Consent Forms must always be obtained for a child to attend and any medical history must be noted. Details of contacts in the event of an emergency should be recorded as should be a general point of contact in their own region. It is important that a Risk Assessment is completed before any such trip is undertaken. Risk Assessments are also completed in the form of wrestling ring inspection prior to all affiliated outdoor and indoor events.

Officials, Coaches and Organisers are expected to follow the **Code of Conduct for Officials** (encl).

Material relating to allegations or concerns regarding Child Protection should be stored securely. Hard copies should be held in locked storage with access to keys under strict control. If records are stored electronically they should be password-protected with limited access.

Wrestling participants, Officials, Coaches and Organisers are expected to follow the **Anti-Bullying Policy** (enc).

The Governing Board of the CWWA has an appointed Disciplinary Committee which deals with misconduct and grievances. All actions are recorded on file.

It is recognised that there must be clear reporting procedures and clear lines of reporting. A child must feel able to report a concern and similarly anyone with concerns over a child must feel able to report their concerns. It is essential that strict confidentiality be maintained and indeed this is held as fundamental to the policy. Anyone with concerns should report them to their Club Leader or a member of the Governing Board. These concerns should then be relayed to the Chairman or Secretary by use of a completed **Incident Reporting Form** (enc) for action to be taken.

Unacceptable conduct of Officials/Coaches/Club Leaders/Organisers can be reported without recrimination by following the **Whistleblowing Policy** (enc).