

OnPoint Coaching Safeguarding Policy

Last updated: 17th July 2025

1. Purpose and Commitment

OnPoint Coaching is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people engaged in our coaching activities. We believe that everyone, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, belief, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background, has the right to be protected from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, coaches, volunteers, parents, and participants involved in OnPoint Coaching activities, including but not limited to OnPoint Academy group sessions and 1-to-1 coaching.

3. Key Principles

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
 - All children have the right to protection from abuse.
 - All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately.
 - We work in partnership with children, parents, carers, and external agencies.
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4. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Name: Sam Pointon

Role: Designated Safeguarding Lead

Email: sam@onpoint-coaching.co.uk

5. Types of Abuse

We recognise the four categories of abuse:

- **Physical Abuse**
- **Emotional Abuse**
- **Sexual Abuse**
- **Neglect**

Additionally, we are alert to risks such as:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
 - Grooming and exploitation
 - Online harm
 - Peer-on-peer abuse
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6. Reporting Concerns

If a child is in immediate danger, dial **999**.

If there is a concern about a child's safety or wellbeing:

1. Report it to the DSL (Sam Pointon) immediately.
2. If the concern involves the DSL or is urgent, contact:
 - **Warwickshire MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub):** 01926 414144
 - **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000

We will record concerns factually and securely.

7. Safer Recruitment

OnPoint Coaching follows safer recruitment practices:

- Enhanced DBS checks for all coaches and staff
- Identity and reference checks
- Verification of qualifications
- Ongoing safeguarding training and updates

8. Allegations Against Staff

Any allegation made against a coach or volunteer will be taken seriously. We will:

- Notify the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
 - Suspend duties if necessary during investigation
 - Cooperate fully with relevant authorities
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9. Whistleblowing

We promote a culture of openness. Anyone (including parents or staff) can raise safeguarding concerns about our practices or individuals without fear of retaliation. Whistleblowers are protected under safeguarding legislation.

10. Online Safety

- We will not contact players directly via personal accounts.
 - All communication must be through approved channels and visible to parents.
 - We do not allow unsupervised online coaching with minors.
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11. Photography & Video

- Parental permission is obtained via a tick-box consent form upon registration.
 - No images will be used without prior permission.
 - Media used for marketing will reflect our values and be securely stored.
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12. Consent and Record Keeping

- All consent forms, medical declarations, and safeguarding incident records are stored securely.
- Records are retained in line with GDPR and child protection legislation.
- Access is restricted to safeguarding personnel only.

13. Code of Conduct

All OnPoint staff, players, and parents must:

- Show respect to others and behave appropriately
- Follow coach instructions at all times
- Maintain safe and inclusive environments
- Avoid inappropriate language or physical contact

Additional codes of conduct may be issued to clarify expectations for different settings.

14. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or as needed in line with changes in legislation or safeguarding guidance.

Next review due: July 2026