

SwimSaga Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Introduction

SwimSaga is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people participating in its activities. We recognise our legal and moral duty of care to ensure that all children are protected from harm and are able to participate in swimming activities within a safe, secure, and supportive environment.

This policy is informed by the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It is also guided by Northern Ireland legislation including the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (2017).

Policy Statement

SwimSaga will take all reasonable steps to ensure that:

- The safety and welfare of children is paramount at all times
- All children are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness
- Appropriate action is taken in the event of any safeguarding concern

Safeguarding Procedures

- A register of attendance is maintained for every session
- Children are supervised at all times and not left unattended
- All staff have AccessNI checks and safeguarding training
- Appropriate staff-to-child ratios are maintained
- A qualified lifesaver is present at each session
- A first aid kit is available at all times
- Alcohol and drugs are prohibited

Reporting Concerns

Concerns must be reported immediately via a coach or info@swimsaga.co.

Where appropriate, concerns may also be referred to HSC Trust Gateway Teams or PSNI.

All concerns are recorded, handled confidentially, and acted upon promptly.

Health, Safety and Welfare

- No child will be exposed to unnecessary risk
- All children are treated equally
- Parents must provide medical and emergency information
- Data handled in line with UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018

Complaints Procedure

All complaints are taken seriously, recorded, and investigated without delay.

Changing Facilities

Male and female changing areas are used. Private cubicles are available and appropriate swimwear must be worn.

Designated Safeguarding Officer

Julie Patton
07917835065

Policy Review Date: 07/04/2026

Next Review Date: 07/04/2027