



RLSS UK  
Safeguarding

## RLSS UK Professional Boundaries Guidance and Practice

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## Control Sheet

### Document Review

Name	Title
<b>Representatives of</b>	S.E.D.A.G

### Document Approval

Name	Title	Department	Signature	Date
<b>Lee Heard</b>	Charity Director	Charity		12/04/2023

### Version History

Version	Amendment/Reason	Date
<b>v1.0</b>	Initial document	12/04/2023
<b>V1.1</b>	Update to error in contents page	31/07/2023

### Associated Documents

Document	Version
<b>RLSS UK Adult at Risk Safeguarding Policy and Procedures</b>	V1.0
<b>RLSS UK Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures</b>	V1.0

### Review dates

This document should be reviewed in line with the details in section 5 and updated to reflect relevant changes.



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## 1.0 Policy statement

- 1.1 RLSS UK is committed to ensuring that children and adults at risk who participate in its activities including lifesaving, lifeguarding, community awards, education, sports, competitions and any other events have a safe, positive and enjoyable experience. All groups of people whatever their age, gender, language, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and culture have the right to protection from abuse and to be treated fairly. Everyone involved with a child or an adult who may be at risk is uniquely placed to recognise and respond to abuse and poor practice across RLSS UK.
- 1.2 There is an expectation that all members of staff, volunteers and anyone representing RLSS UK, within the RLSS UK community always adhere to the highest moral and ethical standards of behaviour. This policy should read in conjunction with the Code of Conduct and the Low-Level Concerns Policy.

## 2.0 Guidance on physical contact

- 2.1 Physical contact may sometimes be needed to instruct, encourage, protect individuals involved in RLSS UK activities.
- 2.2 It should be recognised that physical contact between an adult staff/volunteer/ anyone representing RLSS UK and a child or adult at risk that may occur during legitimate teaching or coaching activities. All such contact should be kept to a minimum and be appropriate for the circumstances. RLSS UK staff, volunteers and anyone representing RLSS UK must avoid any contact that may be misconstrued or misunderstood by a child/adult participant, parent or observer.
- 2.3 Touching young participants, including well intentioned informal and formal gestures such as putting a hand on the shoulder or arm, can, if repeated regularly, lead to the possibility of questions being raised. Any such contact should therefore only be minimal and only take occur as part of the coaching activity in a public place and preferably within sight of another RLSS UK staff member or volunteer.
- 2.4 Any form of physical punishment of children or adults at risk is unlawful, as is any form of physical response to misbehavior or challenging behaviour unless it is by way of physical intervention to prevent a child or adult at risk from harming themselves, others or damaging property.
- 2.5 Children or adults risk in their care and should never be subjected to any form of treatment that is harmful, humiliating or degrading or discriminatory.



2.6 The use of physical intervention to manage challenging behaviour should always be avoided unless it is absolutely necessary. All forms of physical intervention should form part of a broader approach to the management of challenging behaviour and used only after all other strategies have been exhausted. The following must always be considered:

- Is physical intervention the only option available to manage the situation and ensure safety?
- Staff/ volunteers/ anyone representing RLSS UK should consider the circumstances, the risks associated with employing physical intervention compared with the risks of employing non- physical intervention.
- Any form of physical intervention should achieve an outcome that is in the best interests of the person whose behaviour is of immediate concern.
- The scale and nature of physical intervention must always be proportionate to the behaviour of the child or adult at risk and the nature of harm/damage they might cause.
- All forms of physical intervention should employ only a reasonable amount of force – i.e. the minimum force needed to avert injury to a person or serious damage to property - applied for the shortest period of time.
- Staff/volunteers/ anyone representing RLSS UK should never employ physical interventions which are deemed to present an unreasonable risk to children and adults at risk or staff/volunteers.
- Staff/volunteers/ anyone representing RLSS UK shall never use physical intervention as a form of punishment.
- Physical intervention should **NOT** involve inflicting pain.

2.7 Where children or adults at risk are identified as having additional needs or behaviours that are likely to require physical intervention this should be discussed with their parents /carers and where necessary others, for example:

- The club will seek advice from, or work in partnership with external statutory and support agencies(Local Authority, Social Services, Children’s Services or Adult Services, Police or NSPCC) to ensure that a child or adult at risk can be supported to participate safely.
- This may include asking for the provision of a suitably trained support worker/volunteer or accessing staff/volunteer training in physical intervention.
- The need for physical intervention and what is required should be clearly documented as part of any risk assessment prior to the activity taking place.
- All cases involving the need for repeated physical intervention should be brought to the attention of the club DSL. Such a need will be documented in safeguarding records.



2.8 Any physical intervention used should be recorded as soon as possible after the incident by the staff/volunteers involved using the [INCIDENT REPORT FORM](#). The form should be referred to the Club/Branch Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### 3.0 Abuse of Trust

3.1 Any interaction which could be construed as being a form of sexual contact should be avoided.

3.2 RLSS UK staff, members and volunteers are reminded of their obligations in respect of abuse of trust;

The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 section 3 created the offence of abuse of trust. It is an offence for a person aged 18 or over to have sexual intercourse with a person under 18, or to engage in any other sexual activity with, or directed towards such a person, if in either case that person is in a position of trust in relation to the under 18-year-old. This applies even if the relationship is consensual.

A person aged 18 or over ("Person A") is in a position of trust in relation to a person under that age ("Person B") if any of four conditions are satisfied. One relates to the education field and is as follows: "Person A" looks after persons who are under 18 and are receiving full-time education in an institution and "Person B" is receiving such education within that institution. This applies within RLSS UK and includes those in a professional support role and volunteers.

It is a defence to show the person charged did not know, or could not reasonably have known, that the other party was a person in relation to whom he or she was in a position of trust.

### 4.0 Oversight and supervision

4.1 Any breaches of this policy should be reported in line with the safeguarding policy and low level concerns policy.

4.2 Effective and regular supervision of all staff and volunteers through the existing RLSS UK structure will be required to maintain standards of behaviour and identify areas of concern. Professional boundaries should be reiterated at all supervision meetings.

### 5.0 Procedural implementation and review

5.1 These procedures were implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> May and will be reviewed on an annual basis or in response to changes in safeguarding legislation and/or best practice.