

Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

What to do and what happens next

You do not need proof. Report what you have seen, heard, been told or are worried about.

Make everyone safe and listen

If anyone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical help, call 999. Stay calm, listen and take the concern seriously. Do not promise secrecy, investigate, confront anyone or search a device.

Record and report without delay

Write down the facts and the person's words as soon as possible. Report directly using British Orienteering's published [online form](#) or [email](mailto:safeguarding@britishorienteering.org.uk) (safeguarding@britishorienteering.org.uk) or ask a Welfare Officer to help. A Welfare Officer is not a gatekeeper. Reporting must never delay urgent help.

British Orienteering listens, checks safety and assesses

The safeguarding team records the concern, considers the needs and wishes of those affected, identifies whether a child or adult route applies, and decides on statutory referral, support, information sharing and the appropriate case route.

You may be contacted for clarification - you will not be asked to investigate.

External help where needed

Police, children's social care, adult safeguarding or another competent body may be consulted or receive a referral.

British Orienteering coordinates its own action with them.

Protection and support

Support, accessible communication and safety planning are considered. Temporary restrictions or conditions may be used to manage risk. These are protective, not a finding of wrongdoing.

Support or closure

The matter may close with reasons, advice, support or no further safeguarding action.

Another procedure

It may be routed to conduct, complaints, employment, coaching or club action after safeguarding checks.

Safeguarding case

Information may be gathered. An independent decision-maker, Panel or the NSP may decide a contested case or final restriction.

Information, outcome and review

People who need to know are updated so far as it is safe, lawful and fair. Confidentiality may limit detail. Final decisions include reasons and any review or appeal rights under the Safeguarding Regulations.