



Section 3: Child Safeguarding Responsibilities

- Responsibility for child safeguarding within the ASA

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The responsibility for child safeguarding within the ASA belongs with all adults who work with, or have responsibility for, children in our sport.

Shown below are the roles within the ASA who have specific responsibility for safeguarding children in aquatics.

ASA Chief Executive

The Chief Executive, Adam Paker, has the ultimate responsibility for child safeguarding, together with the ASA Group Board and the ASA Sport Governing Board.

The ASA Boards ratify any changes to ASA Rules and Regulations in respect of all matters including child safeguarding and protection.

The Chief Executive is the only person in the ASA with the power to suspend an individual ASA member either temporarily or for a specified term in respect of a child safeguarding issue. The Chief Executive will do so on the advice of the Head of Legal Affairs, Legal Affairs Department and the ASA Child Safeguarding Team.

Legal Affairs Department

The ASA has an in-house Legal Department, which has prime responsibility for the formulation of regulations in relation to child safeguarding and has formed the ASA Child Safeguarding Team, which includes the Head of Legal Affairs, the ASA Independent Child Protection Officer and the ASA National Child Safeguarding Coordinator. The ASA Child Safeguarding Team has responsibility for all child safeguarding case management. It also has responsibility for bringing disciplinary cases before the ASA's judiciary.

The team is headed by Ash Cox, Head of Legal Affairs. Ash is a solicitor and has worked in the area of child safeguarding for over ten years. The Legal Affairs Department actively takes a lead in sharing best practice in child safeguarding with the world of sport as a whole.

ASA Child Safeguarding Team

The ASA Child Safeguarding Team includes the ASA Independent Child Protection Officer (ICPO) and the National Child Safeguarding Coordinator (NCSC).

ICPO

Keith Oddy is the ICPO and has in excess of 30 years experience in policing the busiest areas of London. Keith has worked on numerous youth crime projects, and from 1990, supervised several child protection teams in the London Boroughs. An accomplished paedophile-case investigator, he has investigated complex cases across Europe and the USA. For eight years, he supervised and took the lead on suspicious child death and child murder investigations, having been awarded nine commendations for his work in these fields. He also led on setting up London's first MASH team, jointly working with Children's Services for three years prior to his appointment as the ASA's ICPO.

Keith played water polo at club level, and has been involved in competitive swimming since 1972. In 2014, he became joint-holder of two British Records and a European Masters record.

NCSC

Jenni Dearman is employed by the ASA as the NCSC and is based in the Legal Affairs Department. Jenni has a Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, Level 3 Diploma in Law and Practice. Jenni has worked for the ASA for over ten years and specifically in child safeguarding for eight years, advising affiliated ASA organisations and their members on a wide range of child welfare and safeguarding issues.

All ASA organisations and members can discuss their concerns with the ICPO or NCSC and will be offered advice and guidance on action to be taken in safeguarding and welfare issues. In some situations, the ICPO and/or NCSC may become directly involved with the organisation, normally through the welfare officer, to try and resolve the issues.

The ASA Child Safeguarding Team are responsible for writing Wavepower, and are actively involved in promoting and sharing best safeguarding practice with other sports organisations.

The ASA holds the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Advanced Standard for Safeguarding Children in Sport. The ASA Child Safeguarding Team are responsible for maintaining and embedding that standard and acts as a pilot organisation with Sport England and the CPSU on the new safeguarding framework for funded sports.



The ASA ICPO has responsibility for the ASA Child Welfare Complaints Procedure. This procedure is available to all members and is published in full in the ASA Handbook and at www.swimming.org. At any time, should the ASA Child Safeguarding Team believe their advice has been dismissed, and/or believe that the advice in Wavepower has been dismissed, then the ASA Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures have been breached and the ICPO can raise a complaint against the organisation or individual member involved.

Club, County and Regional Welfare Officers

The volunteers who perform the role of welfare officer are a vital part of the ASA Child Safeguarding Team. They are often the first point of contact for ASA members and parents of members who have a child safeguarding concern, and they ensure that any such concerns are addressed by following the procedures and practices in Wavepower and the ASA Rules and Regulations. Many welfare officers have experience in child safeguarding through their professional employment outside of the ASA and this knowledge and experience can be invaluable when handling the wide range of concerns and enquires they are faced with.

At the request of the Legal Affairs Department or the ASA Child Safeguarding Team, county and regional welfare officers can become directly involved with child safeguarding issues often to support an organisation's welfare officer. They may meet with the individuals involved, or lead meetings with parties to try to directly resolve the issues presented

Welfare officers can discuss any concerns with, or request help and advice from, the ICPO and/or NCSC at any time.

A full role description of the club, county and regional welfare officers can be found on pp. 48–50.

Swimline and Swimline Volunteers

The ASA Swimline Child Protection helpline is a freephone helpline that anyone involved in aquatics can contact for help and advice on any child safeguarding issue.

On contacting Swimline, callers are asked to leave their contact details and a brief description of their concern. The caller will be contacted within 48 hours by either a Swimline volunteer or by the ASA Child Safeguarding Team.

Callers also have the opportunity to transfer straight through to the NSPCC helpline should they require immediate assistance.

Swimline volunteers are qualified and experienced professionals within child protection. They have direct involvement with the ASA at club and county level, and have vast experience of child safeguarding within the ASA.

At the request of the Legal Affairs Department or the ASA Child Safeguarding Team, Swimliner volunteers can become directly involved with child safeguarding issues. They may meet with the individuals or lead meetings with parties to try to directly resolve the issues presented.

