



Safeguarding – A Short Guide for Club Members

Derby Mercury is committed to ensure that children and young people involved in our activities can thrive and flourish in a safe environment and that all children, young people and adults at risk have a fun, safe and positive experience. Derby Mercury is an affiliated member of British Cycling and follows the British Cycling Safeguarding Policy and procedures.

You may be wondering **“What does safeguarding actually mean?”**

Safeguarding is a term used to describe measures that are in place to protect the health and wellbeing of individuals, especially children and other vulnerable groups, to live free from abuse, harm and neglect.

Your next question might be **“What has safeguarding got to do with me?”**

Government guidance makes it clear **that ‘Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility’.**

Anyone who has a negative experience of sport at a young age is less likely to become a regular long-term participant. It’s important for the future of your club and the sport as a whole that children and young people have an enjoyable experience.

By getting safeguarding right for both adults and children, we will ensure safe access to participation in sport and physical activity for everyone.

All club members have a part to play in making that happen.

All our members should contribute to the club meeting its overall duty of care, be aware of our club’s safeguarding procedures, and know what to do if they have any concerns.

Derby Mercury asks our members to:

Familiarise yourself with the Derby Mercury Safeguarding Policy. The full copies of the Derby Mercury Safeguarding Policies are available on our website [here](#).

In particular familiarise yourself with:

1. Derby Mercury Codes of Conduct for Go-Ride events.

Adults and young people should always be aware that differences exist and conduct themselves in a manner that both recognises this and prioritises the welfare of children and young people.

2. Anti-Bullying Policy

Derby Mercury believe that every effort must be made to eradicate bullying in all its forms. Derby Mercury will not tolerate bullying in any of its forms whilst participating in any club activity, event or session.

3. Transport

Derby Mercury believes it is primarily the responsibility of parents/carers to transport their child/children to and from events, activities and club sessions.

4. Changing Rooms

There is no current requirement for children to have access to or use changing rooms pre or post coaching sessions.

There may be occasions where a changing room may be used, for example, at local, regional or national races or competitions. The organising club or regional event organiser would take primacy for conducting the risk assessment and implementing and communicating safeguards.

5. Social Media

Coaches should think very carefully before contacting a young person via mobile phone, e-mail or social media. Do not accept children as contacts on social networking sites if you hold a position of trust with children/young people. In general stick to group communications, copy the communication to a parent and only communicate about organisational matters.

All comments, photographs and posts by any person on any private or public social media or messaging platform should be done so fairly and considerately. They should not be created or construed to cause any offence.

Children, young adults, parents, carers, family and friends should act within the relevant policy.

What should I do if I have a concern?

A concern may involve the behaviour of an individual towards a child or adult whilst at the club. A concern may relate to poor practice or something more serious. You may be worried that something has happened to a child or adult outside the club, at their home or any other social setting. Children, young people and adults at risk may confide in adults they trust, in a place where they feel comfortable. An allegation may range from verbal bullying to inappropriate contact online, neglect or emotional abuse, to physical or sexual abuse.

If you have a concern, it is not your responsibility to investigate further, but it is your responsibility to act on your concerns and share them.

Pass the information to one of our Welfare Officers, Andy Raynor or Corrine Marriot in person or via our Safeguarding page who will then follow the club's Safeguarding procedures.

If you believe someone may be at immediate risk of harm, call the Police on 101 or 999 or your local area Child and Young Adult Social Care Department.

Other useful contacts:

NSPCC - 24-hour helpline Tel: 0808 800 5000

Ann Craft Trust – Safeguarding Adults in Sport and Activity Tel: 0115 951 5400

British Cycling - Lead Safeguarding Officer Tel: 0161 2742000