

Lifesaving South Africa

Safeguarding Policy & Procedures Information for Clubs, Districts and Provinces



Lifesaving South Africa (LSA) has adopted a policy and procedures to safeguard participants in the lifesaving movement from harassment, abuse and poor practice. Safeguarding has become a priority for all sporting federations following high profile cases of sexual harassment and abuse in sport.

In 2019, the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) developed South Africa's first Sport Safeguarding Policy, which among other aspects, calls for all South African Sporting Federations to address three main safeguarding focal points:

1. Ensure that all Sporting Federations develop and adopt a Safeguarding Policy.
2. Ensure that all Federations train and develop both Designated Safeguarding Officers to enforce policy requirements and ensure that all persons working or volunteering in sport complete a basic Safeguarding Awareness Certificate.
3. Compel that all Federations ensure that all persons, working or volunteering in their Federation are cleared against the Sexual Offences Register, the Child Protection Register and have a criminal Check done.

LSA has developed a policy for the prevention of harassment and abuse within lifesaving which requires each club, district and province to adopt and implement their own suitable policy and procedures.

All lifesaving clubs and organisations in South Africa have a responsibility for the safety and welfare of their members and employees (paid staff or volunteers). This responsibility applies to all LSA members and affiliated clubs, regardless of their size or structure. **There is a legal responsibility to ensure that participants are protected from harm whilst taking part in all aspects of lifesaving.** This is legally termed as a 'duty of care' and is of paramount importance when dealing with children or vulnerable persons.

LSA, its members and affiliated clubs are required to comply with South African legislation that is in place to protect children and adults from harassment and abuse. The LSA Safeguarding Policy and Procedural Guidelines are designed to safeguard all who take part in the sport from non-accidental harm and to ensure that the federation, its members and clubs are compliant with related legislation.

Lifesaving Clubs in South Africa are required to adopt the LSA Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and to:

- Have their **own Safeguarding Policy** as a requirement for affiliation to LSA;
- Appoint a competent person as their **Safeguarding Officer**. The Club Safeguarding Officer must be registered with the LSA and must complete approved Safeguarding Training;

- Ensure that **LSA Safeguarding Policy and Procedures are communicated** to their employees (staff and volunteers), members, and their parents and carers;
- Ensure that **employees, members, parents and carers know how to raise safeguarding concerns** within the club or to LSA;
- Ensure that **all coaches and other persons in the club with regular contact** (defined as more than once per month) with children, young people, persons with a mental and/or physical disability and other vulnerable adults, **whether staff or volunteers, have been vetted** which is a legal requirement in South Africa.
- **Each employee** (staff or volunteer) must be vetted either by:
 - Obtaining **checks on the Criminal, Sexual Offenders Register & Child Protection Register** through the LSA process in conjunction with the Guardian or other recognised institution; or
 - Have **submitted a police clearance certificate** (full check, not just name clearance); have **disclosed on affidavit that they have never been convicted of a sexual offence against a child or a mentally disabled person and that their name does not appear in Part B of the National Child Protection Register** as a person deemed unsuitable to work with children.

LSA will provide vetting forms and guidance to assist clubs in ensuring they are compliant with the LSA's Safeguarding Policy and Procedural Guidelines as well as legislation contained in the Children's Act and Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act.

For further information, please visit <https://lifesaving.co.za/> or contact Lifesaving South Africa Head Office on 031 312 9251 or headoffice@lifesaving.co.za.