

# Esports Wales

## Online Safety & Digital Safeguarding Policy

**Status:** Board-approved safeguarding policy

**Applies to:** Directors, Staff, Volunteers, Members, Participants, Partners

**Owner:** Board of Directors

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Appointed Safeguarding Lead

**Board Safeguarding Lead:** Welfare & Safety Lead Director

**Review cycle:** Annual

**Next review due:** 12 months from adoption

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### 1. Purpose

1.1 This policy sets out how **Esports Wales CIC** (“the Company”) will **promote online safety and protect children, young people, and adults at risk** from harm in **digital and online esports environments**.

1.2 It exists to:

- recognise and manage risks unique to esports and digital participation
  - create safe, respectful, and inclusive online spaces
  - provide clear standards for online behaviour and communication
  - ensure prompt action when online safeguarding concerns arise
  - support schools, clubs, parents, staff, and volunteers
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### 2. Scope

Policy Number: P0213  
Version Number: 001



Esports Wales CIC:  
12372413

2.1 This policy applies to all online and digital activity that is:

- delivered, sanctioned, or recognised by Esports Wales
- associated with Esports Wales programmes, competitions, or communities

2.2 It applies across:

- online gameplay and competitions
- voice and text chat platforms
- streaming and broadcasting
- social media
- messaging and collaboration tools
- esports education platforms

2.3 It applies to:

- children and young people
- adults at risk
- staff, volunteers, coaches, officials
- clubs, schools, and delivery partners

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### 3. Online Safeguarding Principles

Esports Wales is committed to the following principles:

- **Safety by Design** – online risks are anticipated and mitigated
- **Respect** – online behaviour must reflect offline safeguarding standards
- **Supervision & Boundaries** – appropriate oversight and limits apply
- **Empowerment** – participants are supported to stay safe and speak up



- **Accountability** – online harm is taken seriously and acted upon
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#### 4. Online Risks in Esports

Esports Wales recognises that online environments can present risks including:

- grooming or sexual exploitation
  - cyberbullying, harassment, or hate speech
  - coercion, threats, or intimidation
  - inappropriate messaging or contact
  - exposure to sexual, violent, or harmful content
  - financial exploitation (e.g. scams, in-game purchases)
  - misuse of streaming or recording tools
  - identity theft or doxxing
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#### 5. Standards of Online Behaviour

5.1 All individuals engaging in Esports Wales online activity must:

- behave respectfully and responsibly
- follow Codes of Conduct
- treat others with dignity and fairness
- comply with platform rules and safeguarding guidance

5.2 The following behaviours are **not permitted**:

- abusive, threatening, or sexualised language
- discriminatory or hateful behaviour



- unsolicited private messaging
  - sharing of inappropriate images or content
  - pressuring others to share personal information
  - encouraging harmful behaviour
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## **6. Communication & Boundaries**

6.1 Staff and volunteers must:

- use only approved communication platforms
- avoid private or secret communication with children
- ensure transparency and oversight in online interactions

6.2 One-to-one communication with children must:

- be necessary and proportionate
  - be visible to others where possible
  - follow safeguarding procedures
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## **7. Streaming, Recording & Content Creation**

7.1 Streaming and recording involving children or adults at risk must:

- be risk-assessed
- comply with safeguarding and consent requirements
- use moderated platforms where possible

7.2 Personal streaming or content creation linked to Esports Wales activity must:

- follow Codes of Conduct



- not expose participants to harm or exploitation
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## 8. Safeguarding Controls & Prevention

Esports Wales will:

- promote safe use of platforms and settings
  - encourage use of privacy controls and moderation tools
  - provide guidance on online safety
  - work with clubs, schools, and partners to manage digital risk
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## 9. Reporting Online Safeguarding Concerns

9.1 Online safeguarding concerns must be reported **in the same way as offline concerns**.

9.2 Concerns may include:

- grooming or inappropriate contact
- abusive messages or behaviour
- sharing of harmful or illegal content

9.3 Concerns must be reported to:

- the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**
- or via published safeguarding contact details

9.4 If there is **immediate risk**, emergency services must be contacted.

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## 10. Responding to Online Safeguarding Incidents

10.1 Online safeguarding incidents will be:

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- taken seriously
- recorded appropriately
- managed in line with safeguarding procedures

10.2 Actions may include:

- escalation to statutory agencies
  - reporting to platform providers
  - suspension or restriction of access
  - disciplinary or governance action
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## 11. Evidence Preservation

11.1 Where safe and appropriate:

- screenshots or logs may be captured
- evidence must not be shared unnecessarily

11.2 Evidence must be:

- stored securely
  - handled in line with record-keeping procedures
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## 12. Parental & Carer Involvement

12.1 Parents and carers should be:

- informed about online risks
- supported to encourage safe participation

12.2 Parents/carers will be informed of concerns **unless** doing so would:



- place the child or others at risk
  - compromise safeguarding action
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### **13. Training & Awareness**

13.1 Esports Wales will:

- promote digital safeguarding awareness
- include online safety in safeguarding training
- support clubs and schools with guidance

13.2 Staff and volunteers must:

- understand online safeguarding risks
  - follow this policy and related procedures
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### **14. Confidentiality & Data Protection**

14.1 Online safeguarding information will be:

- handled sensitively
- shared on a need-to-know basis

14.2 Confidentiality will **never override safeguarding**.

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### **15. Linked Policies & Procedures**

This policy must be read alongside:

- **P0201 Safeguarding Policy Statement**
- **P0202 Safeguarding Children Policy**



- **P0203 Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy**
  - **P0204 Duty of Care Policy**
  - **P0206 Responding to Safeguarding Concerns Procedure**
  - **P0207 Managing Allegations Against Staff & Volunteers**
  - **P0208 Reporting & Escalation Flowchart**
  - **P0209 Record Keeping & Information Sharing Procedure**
  - **P0210 Emergency Safeguarding Response Procedure**
  - **P0212 Code of Conduct for Staff & Volunteers**
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## **16. Review**

16.1 This policy shall be reviewed:

- annually
  - following online safeguarding incidents
  - following changes in technology, platforms, or guidance
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## **17. Adoption**

17.1 This Online Safety & Digital Safeguarding Policy was approved by the Board of Directors of **Esports Wales CIC**.

**Date approved:** \_\_\_02/03/2026\_\_\_

**Signed (Chair):**\_\_\_  \_\_\_

