

Esports Wales

Youth Participation Policy

Status: Board approved policy

Applies to: Children & Young People (Under 18), Staff, Volunteers, Partners

Owner: Board of Directors

Youth Participation Lead: Board appointed Director / Senior Officer

Safeguarding Lead: Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Review cycle: Annual

Next review due: 12 months from adoption

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how **Esports Wales CIC** (“the Company”) will **support, protect, and empower children and young people** participating in esports activities delivered, sanctioned, or recognised by the Company.

It exists to:

- ensure youth participation is **safe, positive, and inclusive**
 - uphold safeguarding and duty of care responsibilities
 - promote youth voice, agency, and wellbeing
 - provide clear standards for youth focused delivery
 - support schools, clubs, parents, and partners
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2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- all participants under the age of 18

Policy Number: P1102
Version Number: 001



Esports Wales CIC:
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- all youth-facing esports activity, including:
 - school and community programmes
 - leagues, competitions, and events
 - online, offline, and hybrid environments

It applies to:

- Esports Wales staff and volunteers
 - clubs, schools, and delivery partners
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3. Core Principles

Youth participation within Esports Wales is guided by the following principles:

- **Safeguarding First** – welfare always overrides performance
 - **Youth Voice** – young people are listened to and respected
 - **Inclusion & Accessibility** – participation is equitable
 - **Positive Development** – focus on skills, confidence, and wellbeing
 - **Age-Appropriate Practice** – activities reflect maturity and need
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4. Rights of Young Participants

Young people have the right to:

- feel safe, respected, and valued
- participate without fear of bullying, harassment, or discrimination
- understand what is expected of them
- raise concerns and be listened to



- receive appropriate support and supervision
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5. Safeguarding & Duty of Care

5.1 All youth participation must comply with:

- **ESW 0202 Safeguarding Children Policy**
- **ESW 0204 Duty of Care Policy**

5.2 Safeguarding measures include:

- appropriate supervision ratios
 - clear reporting and escalation routes
 - safe online environments
 - trained and suitable staff and volunteers
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6. Parental & Carer Involvement

6.1 Parents and carers must:

- be informed about youth activity
- provide consent where required
- understand safeguarding arrangements

6.2 Esports Wales will:

- communicate clearly with parents and carers
 - respect parental roles and concerns
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7. Behaviour, Boundaries & Conduct



7.1 Young people are expected to:

- follow Codes of Conduct
- treat others with respect
- engage positively and responsibly

7.2 Behaviour standards are set out in:

- **ESW 0501 Player Code of Conduct**
 - **ESW 0504 Player Behaviour & Sanctions Policy**
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8. Online Safety & Digital Participation

8.1 Given the nature of esports, online safety is critical.

8.2 Youth participation online must:

- use approved platforms
- be moderated appropriately
- avoid private or unsupervised communication

8.3 Online safety aligns with:

- **ESW 0213 Online Safety & Digital Safeguarding Policy**
 - **ESW 1104 Online Learning Safety Policy**
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9. Inclusion, Equality & Additional Needs

9.1 Esports Wales is committed to inclusive youth participation.

9.2 This includes:

- supporting additional learning needs (ALN)



- making reasonable adjustments
- respecting diverse identities and backgrounds

This aligns with:

- **ESW 0301 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy**
 - **ESW 0305 Accessibility & Reasonable Adjustments Policy**
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10. Youth Voice & Feedback

10.1 Young people should be encouraged to:

- share feedback
- express views safely
- contribute to improving activity

10.2 Feedback mechanisms will be:

- age-appropriate
 - supportive and accessible
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11. Risk Assessment & Planning

11.1 All youth activity must be:

- planned in advance
- risk-assessed proportionately

11.2 Risk considerations include:

- age and vulnerability
- online interaction risks



- intensity and duration of participation
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12. Reporting Concerns

12.1 Any concern relating to:

- safeguarding
- wellbeing
- inappropriate behaviour

must be reported immediately.

12.2 Reporting must follow:

- **ESW 0206 Responding to Safeguarding Concerns Procedure**
 - **ESW 0208 Reporting & Escalation Flowchart**
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13. Relationship to Other Policies

This policy must be read alongside:

- **ESW 1101 Schools Engagement Policy**
 - **ESW 0201–0209 Safeguarding Policies & Procedures**
 - **ESW 0408 Health, Wellbeing & Mental Health Policy**
 - **ESW 0502 Player Eligibility & Registration Policy**
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14. Review

This policy shall be reviewed:

- annually




- following safeguarding incidents or youth feedback
 - following changes in guidance or legislation
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15. Adoption

This Youth Participation Policy was approved by the Board of Directors of **Esports Wales CIC**.

Date approved: ___02/03/2026___

Signed (Chair):___  ___

