

Bridgnorth Rowing Club Regatta Welfare Policy Statement 2026

The Organising Committee of the Bridgnorth Rowing Club (BRC) Regatta 2026 believes that the welfare and wellbeing of all participants are paramount, whether competitors or as spectators, and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and British Rowing requirements. It acknowledges that everyone, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, have equal rights to safety and protection and that special measures are required to protect children and young people and adults at risk.

All suspicions, concerns and allegations of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

This Policy Statement aims to ensure that all participants:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at the BRC Regatta in a safe environment;
- are protected from abuse while participating in or attending the BRC Regatta or outside of the activity.

This policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in the BRC Regatta. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the event and future competitions both indoor and on water.

Responsibilities of the Organising Committee (OC)

As part of our safeguarding policy the OC will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of participants, officials, volunteers and spectators;
- ensure all personnel understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and welfare and have undertaken appropriate training;
- ensure all personnel dealing with minors in rowing are aware of the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy;
- ensure the Event Safety Advisor is aware of this Policy Statement and Safety plan;

- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of welfare incidents or concerns of abuse and that support is provided to the individual(s) who raise or disclose the concern;
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored;
- do their best to prevent the employment or deployment of unsuitable individuals;
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
- a designated Event Welfare Officer (EWO) will be appointed annually and is responsible for receiving and managing any concern or reports with the appropriate bodies (BR, Local Authorities, the NSPCC and the Police).

To report an allegation or concern, please contact the Event Welfare Officer. The Event Welfare Officer for 2026 will be Lucy Warren. Lucy can be contacted using the mobile number 07800 739875 or via any club/event official during the day.

The only volunteers who may have substantial, unsupervised access to children are listed below. These volunteers will be asked to provide the date and number of their enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Where no such disclosure exists, the Committee will require one to be produced before the event.

- Members of the First Aid providers
- The Event Welfare Officer

Responsibility of Participating Clubs

It is a condition of entry to the BRC Regatta that any crew that includes junior athletes shall have a named coach or responsible adult. The named coach or responsible adult, who must be over the age of 18, must be named on the entry form and a current mobile telephone number for that person must be provided. If a substitute coach or responsible adult comes to the competition, they must contact the Event Welfare Officer/Crew Registration and register their mobile telephone number.

Each named coach or responsible adult is responsible for the welfare, safety and appropriate supervision of their crew or entered athlete and is always expected to know the whereabouts of all their athletes during the competition.

All participants and coaches must abide by British Rowing Rules of Racing and Codes of Conduct as well as the British Rowing Safeguarding Policy, which can be found the British Rowing website or via the links below, and are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and conduct at all times.

Volunteers who are under 18 (young volunteers)

Before accepting them, the Organising Committee must ensure that young volunteers:

- agree to the British Rowing Codes of Conduct;
- provide written agreement from their parent/carer that they may carry out the responsibility they have been assigned;
- are supervised at all times by at least one adult who holds a DBS check and has undergone appropriate safeguarding training;
- know their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding, and how to report any concerns they have or become aware of;
- are not given responsibilities that may put someone at risk of harm e.g. sole supervision of other juniors or lifting heavy equipment

Useful Corresponding Documents

<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-British-Rowing-Rules-of-Racing.pdf>

<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Safeguarding-Policy.pdf>

<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/British-Rowing-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

Reporting structure for concerns or allegations at the BRC Regatta 2026

Below is a quick reference guide to managing safeguarding: Concerns, roles and responsibilities in the process are outlined in the flow chat below.

The 4 R's

RECOGNISE: Be alert to signs of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Trust your instincts – if something feels wrong, it might be. Examples:

- Unexplained injuries
- Sudden behavior changes
- Signs of fear or withdrawal
- Disclosure from the person themselves

RESPOND: Stay calm and supportive. Ensure immediate safety if needed. Do:

- Listen Carefully
- Reassure the person they've done the right thing
- Avoid leading questions
- Take concerns seriously

If someone is at immediate risk, call 999.

REPORT: Report the concern as soon as possible to your EWO and include:

- Who is involved
- What was said or seen
- When and where it happened
- Your own observations

RECORD: Write up a factual and accurate account as soon as possible. Stick to facts, avoid assumptions or opinions.

Reporting structure flow chart

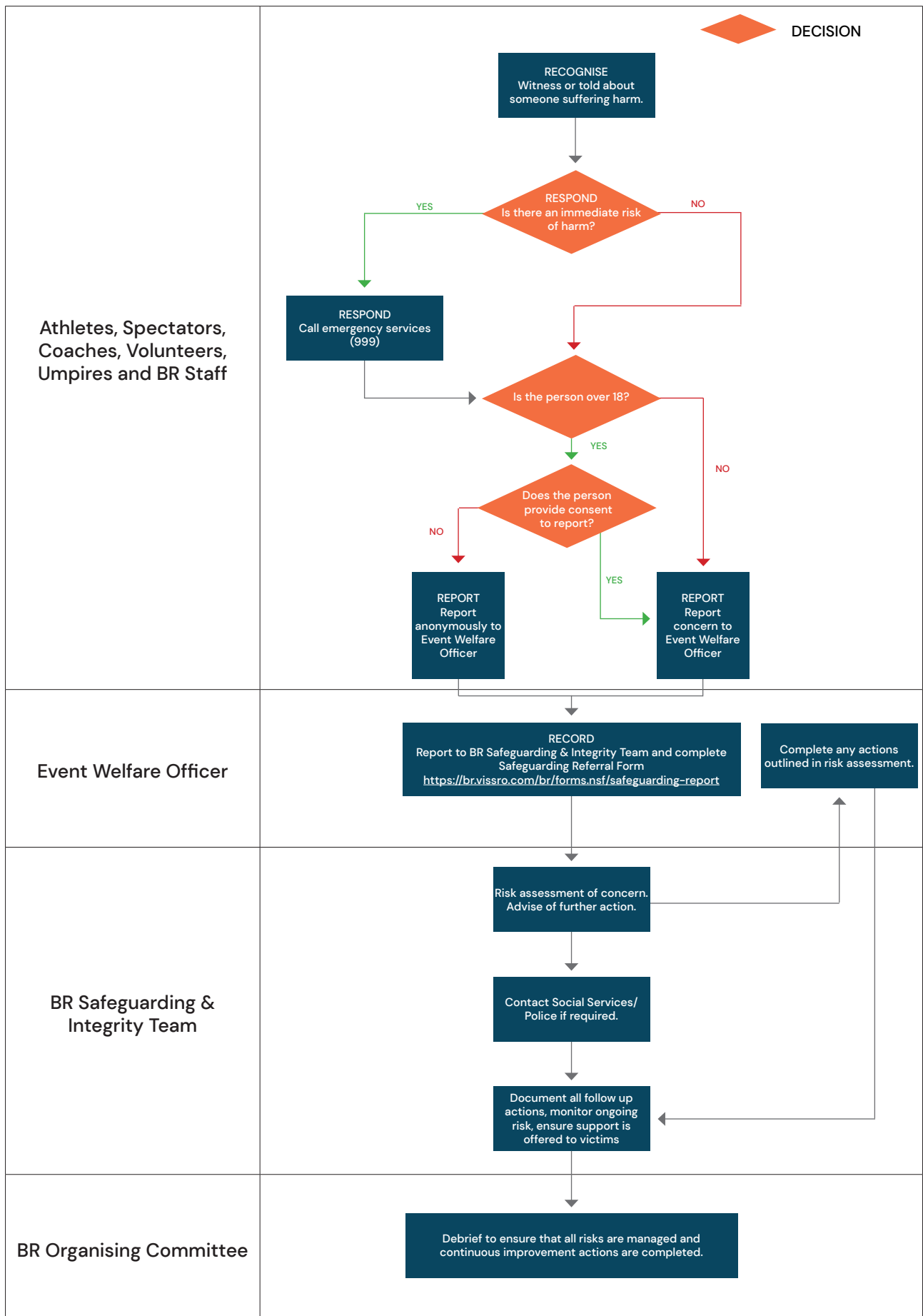
Diagram Key



ACTION REQUIRED



DECISION



Medical Provision

All medical staff will be sent a copy of this Policy Statement and be given the contact details for the Event Welfare Officer.

In an emergency the Race Committee/Safety Advisor/Event Welfare Officer should contact the emergency services using 999.

Security

Volunteers and officials may be briefed on exercising vigilance for anything suspicious e.g. someone unknown to the crews hanging around or tampering with equipment; people taking pictures near the changing facilities.

Missing Persons

If a person has been missing for more than 20 minutes, contact the Event Welfare Officer and the Event Safety Advisor via any official.

If a child goes missing during an event, the following procedure will be applied.

- Officials must ensure that all other children continue to be supervised appropriately while a search for the child concerned is carried out.
- The initial report must be reported to the Event Welfare Officer.
- The Event Welfare Officer will request all available officials to conduct a search of the surrounding area allocating each individual to a specific area.
- Radio communication should convey a description of the child but not their full name.
- All those searching should be told to report back within a short time, dependent on the size of the area being searched.
- If the child cannot be found after a search of the immediate surroundings, the child's parents/carers should be contacted to advise them of the concern and reassure them that everything is being done to locate the child.
- A note should be made of the circumstances in which the child has gone missing and where he/she was last seen. A detailed physical description of the child should be prepared, including their hair and eye colour, approximate height and build and clothing he/she was wearing, as this will be required by the police.
- The concern should be reported to the police if the search is unsuccessful, no later than 20 minutes after the initial missing person report if the search is ongoing.

- Police guidance should be followed, further action recommended should be taken and close contact with the police maintained;
- All officials involved, the parents, teachers and police must be informed if at any stage the child is located.

DBS checks, access to young people or their contact details

The Entries Secretary and Registration personnel should not hold any contact details for young people and do not need to be DBS checked. DBS disclosures of medical staff and the Event Welfare Officer shall be checked.

Photography and publicity

The OC recognises that at a sports events many parents and other supporters will wish to take photographs and all participants should be aware of this.

The OC may approve photography by commercial organisations and these professional photographers will be asked to display a badge to the effect that they are permitted to take photographs. The OC will provide the professional photographers with a copy of British Rowing Photography Policy which they are expected to sign and follow.

This policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances.

- There is a change in legislation and/or government guidance as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and/or Home Country Sports Councils and British Rowing.
- Any other significant change or event occurs.

Bridgnorth Rowing Club Regatta 2026
Organising Committee 20/04/2026