

Introduction to the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Framework

This article explores the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Framework (the Framework). It describes how and why it was developed by the Ann Craft Trust, the themes, how it can be accessed and timeframes for completion. It ends with what partners need to do next and contact details for the Ann Craft Trust team and website.

Background

The Ann Craft Trust (ACT) is a national safeguarding organisation. It is part of the University of Nottingham and has 30 years of expertise in safeguarding adults.

Following the introduction of Safeguarding Guidance in the Care Act 2014 in England, sport and physical activity organisations expressed a need for more guidance on safeguarding adults. In 2015 ACT received funding from Sport England to develop services and resources to support Active Partnerships (APs) and National Governing Bodies (NGBs).

ACT is now a safeguarding partner (along with the Child Protection in Sport Unit and NWG), working to support Sport England's system partners with embedding safeguarding adults.

What is the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Framework?

In 2017 Sport England funded ACT to develop the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Framework. The Framework was originally designed to be an online audit tool to enable sport and activity organisations to have their safeguarding policy and practices professionally assessed by ACT against a set of themes.

To create the themes, ACT worked in conjunction with Sport England and the sport and physical activity sector, running consultation workshops with NGB and AP lead safeguarding officers and the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Steering Group which consists of senior representatives from across key sport and activity organisations.

The Framework was piloted and then launched to APs and NGBs in 2019. Feedback continued to be sought and it was updated in 2021-22 with better accessibility and links to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Who should undertake the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Framework?

The Framework is now mandatory for all Sport England system partners. They must complete a Framework submission by the end of their award agreement.

What areas does the Framework cover?

There are 6 themes. They are essential to safeguarding adults good practice and are consistent with legislation and regulatory processes in other industries.

Theme 1: Safeguarding Governance

Theme 2: Implementation of Adult Safeguarding Responsibility

Theme 3: Training and Staff Development

Theme 4: Safe Recruitment

Theme 5: Codes of Conduct

Theme 6: Managing Safeguarding Adult Cases

Under each theme are criteria that organisations must provide evidence against, identifying any gaps and creating a plan for future work.

How long does it take to complete a Framework submission?

From logging onto the Framework portal, (see below on how to access and get started with the Framework) organisations have 6 weeks to complete and submit their information. The submission then goes to the ACT team to review the evidence and action plan within a further 6 weeks.

How are submissions assessed?

The ACT assessor will provide a written account to indicate where the themes and criteria are met, and identify areas to work on.

An award of 'Not Met', 'Conditionally Met' or 'Met' will be awarded.

If a submission is 'Not Met' or is 'Conditionally Met', the organisation will agree a timescale with ACT on when they will undertake a new submission. It must be undertaken within 2 years of the original submission and the organisation will be supported by ACT to look at the areas that require improvement.

Ann Craft Trust, Centre for Social Work, University Park, University of Nottingham NG7 2RD

Call: 0115 951 5400 | **Email:** ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk | **anncrafttrust.org**

How is the Framework renewed?

Organisations are expected to complete a new submission every 2 years, using their previous submission as a basis for identifying progress. They are sent a reminder 2 months in advance of their 2 year expiry date.

How do organisations access the Framework?

Partners should contact ACT (contact details below) and plan with the team when they would like to undertake the Framework. Organisations can choose the time that best suits them to undertake it. They will be sent unique login details which enable them to log into the online system.

Completing the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Framework has been designed to be as simple as possible, with organisations typing into boxes and uploading documents. It automatically saves so that information is not lost.

ACT also offers technical support to organisations that experience any issues.

How can partners get started with the Framework?

The ACT team aims to link in with all partners by the end of 2023 – we are here to help you!

All the information you need to start is easily available on the ACT website

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/safeguarding-adults-sport-activity/the-safeguarding-adults-in-sport-framework/>

ACT is also running information sessions for partners. These have proved to be very popular as there is a live demonstration of the system, a chance to have questions answered and tips from organisations that have previously undertaken the Safeguarding Adults in Sport Framework.

Register now for one of our Framework sessions:

1st March 2023:

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/events/safeguarding-adults-in-sport-framework-information-session-for-active-partnerships-and-national-governing-bodies-funded-by-uk-sport-and-or-sport-england>

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25th April 2023:

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/events/safeguarding-adults-in-sport-framework-information-session-for-active-partnerships-national-specialist-partners-and-national-governing-bodies-funded-by-uk-sport-and-or-sport-england/>

'ACT is excited to be working with the Sport England partners. Please just get in touch and a member of the Safeguarding Adults in Sport team will arrange an online meeting or telephone call. Then when you're ready to start the Framework, we will get you logged in and you can begin your submission.'

Emma Gibson, Head of Safeguarding Adults in Sport for the Ann Craft Trust.

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To keep up to date with safeguarding adults in sport sign up to our newsletter here:

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/subscribe/>

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