POLICY

# Child Protection & Safeguarding

## STATEMENT

**270 Climbing recognises the welfare and safeguarding of children and young people in sport is absolutely paramount. All children have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.**

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and while this policy primarily applies to members of staff or anyone working within or on behalf of 270 Climbing, whether that be onsite at the Park or on any of our mobile activities, it is also includes useful information for customers, parents or guardians of participating children, or any other adult who comes into direct or indirect contact with children.

270 Climbing follow the safeguarding guidelines and child protection policy as set out by the Association British Climbing Walls (ABC). These guidelines are only accessible by ABC Members, but they provide the fundamental principles of our safeguarding policy. We also work closely to standards as set out by British Mountaineering Council (BMC). These are also adhered to by Sport England and the NSPCC and, together with the ABC, form the basis of our procedures. Copies of the BMC's Safeguarding Statement and their Child Protection Policy can be found on their website at https://thebmc.co.uk/safeguarding

## CONTACT DETAILS

Any safeguarding or child protection issues can be raised by contacting our Safeguarding Team on **EMAIL**: safeguarding@270climbing.com

If you prefer to contact someone directly, you can do so in confidence via the following:

270 Climbing Senior Safeguarding Officer: Jeremy Chapman
**EMAIL**: jeremyc@270climbing.com or **TEL**: 01242 655 270.

270 Climbing Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Charlotte Stevens
**EMAIL**: charlottes@270climbing.com or **TEL**: 01242 655 270.

## ADDITIONAL USEFUL CONTACTS

There are also several local organisations that may also be of assistance. Details of these can be found at https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-young-people-and-families/report-a-child-at-risk/

## GOVERNANCE

Throughout all of our operations, 270 members of staff adhere to the following code of behaviour:

- All activity staff are DBS checked.
- All activity staff complete company safeguarding training.
- To recognise they have been placed in a position of trust and to not abuse this.
- To act as an ambassador of 270 Climbing and set a good example for others to follow.
- To treat everyone with dignity and respect.

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- To treat all young people equally (no favourites here!).
- To create an environment where young people feel safe.
- To encourage an open and transparent culture, where people can challenge inappropriate attitudes or behaviours and voice concerns.
- To act within appropriate boundaries with young people - even in difficult circumstances - by avoiding being engaged into inappropriate friendships or relationships or being drawn into unsuitable attention-seeking behaviour.
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy.
- To remember that someone may misinterpret actions.
- Will not allow activities that encourage bullying behaviour such as initiation ceremonies, dares or forfeits.
- Will not accept inappropriate, suggestive or threatening language or behaviour, whether verbal, physical, written or online.
- Will not trivialise abuse or let it go unreported.
- To immediately report all allegations, suspicions and concerns.
- Will not rely on a person's reputation or position to protect themselves or others.
- Personal details on bookings for sessions will not be shared with any other third parties. All booking information is protected data under GDPR.
- Ensure all actions proceed with caution within close proximity to children are completed openly and with the permission of the parents/guardians and within view of other adults or areas covered by CCTV.
- When fitting equipment or PPE to a child, or attaching them to a system, our instructor will ensure they refrain from having their back to the parents/guardians.
- The use of a safe word policy will be followed to permit a child being collected by a different adult than usual, or if a certain individual is not permitted to collect.
- Visibly ensure that children return to a parent/guardian following the end of the session. If not collected, the Team or Centre Manager will be informed and we will get in touch with the nominated contact immediately. A 270 member of staff will remain with the child until the parent/guardian arrives and can be safely passed on.
- Act promptly if there is any concern about a child's safety. 270 staff will notify the Team or Centre Manager and contact will be made with the parent/guardian.
- We are members of our industry trade organisation, the Association of British Climbing Walls and also the British Mountaineering Council, and actively follow their various standards, legislation and guidelines issued to ensure consistent levels of operations.

This Policy is supported by the Children Act 1989/2004 and Every Child Matters document. 270 staff aim to contribute to these statements to the best of our abilities.

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To be reviewed by September 2027.

270 CLIMBING