



Champion Dance & Cheer

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Policy Created: 1 September 2025

Policy Review Date: 1 September 2026

Safeguarding Officer: Lisa Tausney

Contact Email: lisa@championdanceandcheer.com

1. Introduction

Champion Dance & Cheer (CDC) is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults who participate in our classes, teams, performances, competitions, trips, and events.

As a dance and cheerleading school based in Scotland, we recognise our responsibility to provide a safe, positive, and supportive environment where all athletes can train, perform, and develop free from harm, abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

This policy applies to all athletes, parents/carers, coaches, staff, volunteers, and anyone acting on behalf of Champion Dance & Cheer.

2. Legal Framework and National Guidance (Scotland)

Champion Dance & Cheer operates in line with relevant Scottish legislation and national safeguarding guidance, including:

- Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007
- Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

We also align our practice with guidance from SportCheer Scotland and other relevant governing bodies.

3. Safeguarding Principles

The welfare of the athlete is paramount.

All athletes have the right to protection from harm regardless of age, disability, gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, or background.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility.

Athletes have the right to be heard, respected, and involved in decisions affecting them.

Champion Dance & Cheer works in partnership with parents and carers.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Parents and carers must ensure safe participation, provide accurate information, and support safeguarding arrangements.

Coaches, staff, and volunteers must be appropriately qualified, PVG checked where required, maintain professional boundaries, and report concerns immediately.

Champion Dance & Cheer will ensure safeguarding procedures are implemented, monitored, and reviewed.

5. Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding Officer: Lisa Tausney

Email: lisa@championdanceandcheer.com

6. Code of Conduct – Good Practice

Staff and volunteers should:

- Treat all athletes with dignity and respect
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries
- Work in open environments
- Avoid unnecessary one-to-one situations
- Provide positive, constructive feedback
- Encourage athlete voice and participation

7. Code of Conduct – Prohibited Practice

The following are never permitted:

- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse

- Inappropriate physical contact
- Sexualised language or behaviour
- Bullying or intimidation
- Supplying alcohol or prohibited substances
- Coaching without appropriate clearance

8. Dance & Performance-Specific Safeguarding

Champion Dance & Cheer recognises additional risks including:

- Physical contact during instruction
- Costume fittings and changing arrangements
- Body image and appearance pressures
- Performance-related stress

Clear boundaries and consent are maintained at all times.

9. Photography, Filming, and Social Media

Photography and filming are only permitted with consent.

Unauthorised filming is not permitted during classes.

Images will never be used without appropriate permission.

10. Trips, Events, and Overnight Stays

All trips will be risk assessed.

Appropriate supervision ratios will be maintained.

11. First Aid and Injuries

A qualified first aider will be present.

All injuries will be recorded.

Parents will be informed of significant injuries.

12. Physical Contact

Any physical contact must be appropriate, necessary, explained, and consented to.

13. Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

Concerns must be reported immediately to the Safeguarding Officer.

Concerns may also be escalated to SportCheer Scotland, Local Authority Children's Services, or Police Scotland in an emergency.

No individual should investigate concerns themselves.

14. Complaints and Whistleblowing

Champion Dance & Cheer encourages openness.

Concerns may be raised without fear of reprisal.

15. Policy Review and Commitment

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Champion Dance & Cheer is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.