

# SOAR SDC

## Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy

Version 1.0 – January 2026

### 1. Policy Statement

SOAR SDC recognises its moral and legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, young people (under 18), and vulnerable adults who participate in or attend SOAR events, competitions, workshops, and associated activities.

The welfare of the child is paramount.

SOAR SDC is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and professionally managed event environment, promoting positive participation and wellbeing, ensuring clear safeguarding reporting pathways, and acting promptly and appropriately where concerns arise.

SOAR operates primarily as a competition and events organisation. Activities take place within open, public or supervised venue spaces. SOAR does not operate backstage or dressing-room environments. Children remain the responsibility of their parent, legal guardian, registered chaperone, or dance school unless otherwise agreed in writing.

### 2. Legal Framework

This policy is informed by current UK legislation and statutory guidance including:

Children Act 1989 & 2004

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018, updated guidance)

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014

Education Act 2002

### 3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to SOAR directors, event organisers, staff (paid or voluntary), judges, freelance contractors, event crew, photographers, volunteers, chaperones, and any adult acting on behalf of SOAR.

For the purposes of this policy, references to children include all persons under 18 and vulnerable adults.

## **4. Roles & Responsibilities**

All staff, judges and event personnel must place the welfare of the child above all other considerations, work visibly and openly, maintain professional boundaries, avoid one-to-one situations where possible, and report safeguarding concerns immediately.

A Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be appointed for each event. The DSL will act as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns, record and securely store reports, liaise with venue safeguarding officers, and refer concerns to statutory agencies where required.

## **5. Supervision & Event Environment**

Children under 16 must be supervised at all times by a parent/carer, teacher, or agreed responsible adult. SOAR staff do not provide childcare or supervision services.

Line-up and holding areas remain in plain sight of staff and spectators. No backstage or enclosed dressing environments are operated by SOAR.

## **6. Photography & Media**

SOAR events may include official photography and filming for documentation and promotion.

Parental consent is collected through registration processes. Images are used responsibly and in accordance with GDPR. Children will not be identified by full name without additional consent. Filming is strictly prohibited in toilets or changing areas.

## **7. Recognising Abuse**

Abuse may be physical, emotional, sexual or neglect. All staff should be aware of potential indicators of abuse and take any concern seriously.

## **8. Responding to a Concern or Disclosure**

If a child discloses information, remain calm, listen carefully, take them seriously, do not promise confidentiality, do not ask leading questions, record the information accurately using the child's own words, and report immediately to the DSL.

Staff must not investigate allegations themselves.

## **9. Allegations Against Staff**

Any allegation against a staff member, judge or volunteer must be reported immediately to the DSL. If the concern involves the DSL, it must be reported to a SOAR Director or directly to Children's Services.

SOAR may remove individuals from duties pending advice and contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Police or Children's Services where appropriate.

## **10. Recording & Confidentiality**

All safeguarding concerns must be recorded factually, dated and stored securely. Information will be shared strictly on a need-to-know basis.

## **11. Accidents & First Aid**

All accidents must be recorded. First aid will be administered by a qualified first aider where available. Emergency services will be contacted if required and parents informed as soon as practicable.

## **12. Safer Recruitment**

SOAR follows safer recruitment principles including identity verification, DBS checks where appropriate, references, safeguarding awareness and clear role boundaries.

## **13. Governance & Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or operational requirements change. By attending a SOAR event, all participants, staff and spectators agree to adhere to this policy.

## **14. Contact Information**

Designated Safeguarding Lead details will be displayed at each event.

SOAR Events Ltd