

# SAFEGUARDING IN 6 DECISION MAKING MODEL

This model gives you a clear way to make decisions and helps you to answer 'Why did I make that decision?'.  
This matters in safeguarding, as it is about being reasonable, proportionate and accountable.



## 1. Gather all available information

- What do you actually know? Not assumptions or rumours
- What was seen or heard? Who was involved? When & where did it happen?
- Keep it factual - good decisions come from good information

At the centre of this model is your organisation's values. In sport, that includes

- Putting the welfare of participants first
- Respect
- Integrity
- Inclusion

The starting point is always 'What is the right thing to do?'

## 5. Take action & review what happened

- Take action such as log the concern, have the conversation, escalate if needed.
- Review - did the action work? Has the behaviour changed? Are further actions needed? Remember safeguarding isn't one decision, it's an ongoing process



## 2. Identify risk

- What's the risk?
- Could it escalate? Is there a pattern? Is anyone uncomfortable or at risk?
- This is key in lower-level concerns
- Often risk isn't immediate harm - it's what could happen if nothing changes

## 3. Consider scope of practice, policies & wider support

- What do your policies say?
- This is where codes of conduct, safeguarding policies & procedures come into play
- Determine action based on the agreed standards

## 4. Identify Options

- There are practical options available -
- Speak to the Welfare Officer/DSL
- Have a conversation with the coach
- Record the concern
- Monitor the situation
- Put boundaries in place