

What is Poor Safeguarding Practice?

This is the question with endless responses. Why? Because poor practice can mean something different to everyone you speak to which makes the challenge of identifying poor practice even more challenging.

We held many conversations with members of all ages and clubs through forums and survey's to understand what Orienteering members (juniors and seniors) view as poor practice. An extensive list was created showing just what matters to our members, which we've compiled into the table below.

This list is by no means every poor practice you could see but will help you to identify if something isn't quite right. The examples are also in no particular order.

If you observe any of the practices listed below or are not quite sure about something, contact your Club Welfare Officer (CWO) or British Orienteering's Lead Safeguarding Officer ([details here](#)) who will be happy to help and discuss your concerns.

Physical harm to someone.	Abusing someone's privacy. Either at an event/ training session, or away from Orienteering.
Being rude, verbally, or making fun of you or someone else.	Being aggressive to others (athletes, volunteers, parents) through either threatening language or behaviour.
A coach or club committee member not listening to you.	Ignoring safeguarding procedures/ policy.
Making you feel uncomfortable.	Isolating you from others within the club. Including at training and/ or events.
Inappropriate/ unwanted contact via a social media platform.	Bullying.
Discrimination of any kind.	Aggressively pushing someone to complete an activity/ course beyond their capability or desire.
"Men" entering female areas including events.	Changing in front of others, especially in front of under 18's.
People photographing or videoing children without permission.	Lifts in vehicles with one adult of opposite sex.
Ignoring warning signs of abuse either within the club or with a participating suggesting abuse at home or other situation.	Inappropriate/unsafe course design.
Another orienteer or a member of the public taking a strong interest in a child or vulnerable adult e.g. following them, touching them, trying to speak with them.	Coaches making fun of children or having favourites.
Turning a blind eye to questionable behaviour.	Pressure on young people to win and bullying for poor results.

Strangers approaching young people and children.	Exposing to danger - busy roads, extreme weather.
Unmoderated contact groups via apps or websites.	Unqualified coaches with juniors and youth, no regard for safety or harm of athletes.
Parents berating their children for not performing to parental expectations.	Ignorance and turn the other cheek attitude.