



NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING PANEL

National Safeguarding Panel

Role Overview for Legal Member

Overall Responsibilities

Legal members shall be appointed to chair National Governing Body (NGB) safeguarding tribunals and panels. The main aim of such appointments is to improve the quality and consistency of decision making in respect of concerns about staff or volunteer's performance, capability or conduct in working with children, young people or adults at risk.

Specific Responsibilities

- To be available for appointment to NGB tribunals and panels, to make decisions in respect of concerns about staff or volunteers' performance, capability or conduct in working with children, young people or adults at risk.
- To prepare for hearings by reading and assimilating papers before the tribunal or appeal commences, including the study of written documents and reports.
- To issue directions and control the manner in which cases are conducted in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures.
- To ensure that the tribunal is conducted in an impartial, fair, calm and transparent manner.
- To ensure that parties are able to present their case for consideration, as fully and as fairly as possible, including, where appropriate, taking the initiative at the hearing, to ensure that all relevant matters are covered, whether specifically raised by the parties or not.
- To ensure that witnesses are supported in giving evidence, and to take special measures if required, with particular attention to children and adults at risk who are witnesses of abuse.
- To decide on issues of law and procedure which may arise during a tribunal.

- To work collaboratively with other tribunal members to decide cases by finding facts, applying the relevant rules and giving a reasoned written decision.
- To contribute to the development of, and keep abreast of, best practice in safeguarding in sport.

Selection Criteria

- Principal professional practice/residence is in the United Kingdom.
- Judge, barrister, solicitor or arbitrator of seven years' standing.
- Recent experience of chairing tribunals, panels or case management groups which have powers to decide on the suitability of individuals to work with children, young people and adults at risk.
- Knowledge of employment law and other relevant legislation which concerns equality, disability discrimination, human rights law, and the safeguarding of vulnerable groups.
- Knowledge of best practice in conducting disciplinary proceedings and in particular those of sports governing bodies.
- An understanding and appreciation of the support required for vulnerable witnesses and those accused of unsafe practice in working with children, young people and adults at risk.
- An understanding and appreciation of the impact which abusive behaviour can have on children, young people and adults at risk including the additional vulnerability to abuse of some young people and the impact of peer abuse.
- An understanding and appreciation of behaviour which is indicative of 'grooming' with the intention to abuse a child or adult at risk.

Last review (date)	October 2020
Reviewed by (name)	Panel Appointments and Review Committee
Next review and approval due (date)	Match 2024