

LSESU SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR UNDER 18s IN ALL SU ACTIVITIES

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VERSION AND REVISION RECORD:

Date	Version No	Details	Review date
27 March 2025	1.0	Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Under 18s in all SU Activities	27 March 2026

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1. Introduction and policy aims

LSESU is committed to safeguarding any student under the age of 18. This policy and procedure outlines clear guidelines for safe engagement, appropriate supervision, and staff training to protect these students and ensure they can participate safely.

A person under the age of 18 years is a child. As a result, the LSESU has a responsibility to protect those under the age of 18 years from abuse and will report any suspicions or allegations of abuse of children to the appropriate Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

2. Parental involvement

Before a person under the age of 18 can join a club and or a society parents or guardians must provide written consent, this includes signing the necessary permission forms and ensuring the student's participation is safe.

3. Commercial – bar and events

A person under the age of 18 are allowed to attend events only in spaces where alcohol is not being consumed. However, when commercial venues such as bars or clubs are operating and serving alcohol, anyone under the age of 18 will not be permitted entry.

Events held at various locations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, particularly when training place in commercialised spaces. The LSESU ticketing platform allows event organisers to set age restrictions for certain types of tickets, preventing anyone under the age of 18 from accessing events that are not suitable for their age group.

Monitoring and Enforcement

In terms of monitoring the enforcement the following actions will be undertaken:

- Bar staff are trained to identify underage individuals and consistently enforce the policy.
- Under 18s will be asked to leave the bar if found inside during alcohol-serving hours or events.
- All bar and event staff undergo training during recruitment and receive reminders before shifts to ensure they implement the policy consistently.
- Security staff are also trained to support age verification and ensure no underage individuals enter alcohol-serving areas.

4. Communication and awareness

This policy and procedure will be clearly communicated to students via notices at the bar, on the student bar's website and during events.

- Under 18 students will be reminded they are not allowed access to the bar at certain times, including during club nights, social events, and regular hours of operation.

5. Forms of ID Accepted

- All individuals must present valid ID upon entry to events to verify their age. Accepted forms include:
 - Passport (valid and unexpired)
 - Driver's License (provisional or full)
 - National Identity Card (issued by a government authority)
 - CitizenCard (UK proof of age card)
 - PASS Card (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
 - Home Office-issued Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

6. Staff Training to Challenge Age:

- All bar and event staff receive training during recruitment to be aware of the age-related policies.
- They are briefed before their shifts on the procedures for verifying age and challenging underage individuals as needed.

7. Student Leaders Training

All student group committees will receive safeguarding training after they have been elected. This training will outline what safeguarding is, committees' role in safeguarding, signs of abuse, harm, and reporting mechanisms.

8. Club and Society engagement

Clubs and Societies affiliated with LSESU must take special care when involving under 18s in activities to maintain a safe environment.

Process of joining a club/society as an under 18 member:

Students under the age of 18 are not able to purchase membership via the website.

- Ask student to fill out the Under 18s Clubs and Societies Permission form.
- Send email to student with additional guidance and activity reminders.
- Notify student about activity restrictions and inform them you will share their name with the club/society.
- Send email to club/society with the guidance details.
- Send approval email to the club/society, including the student's name. Cc coach/instructor (if applicable).
- Add student to 'Approved under 18s' membership group for membership access.
- Send confirmation email to student with details.

Activity Restrictions for Under 18s:

Under 18s are **not** permitted to participate in the following activities:

- **Overnight Trips:** Under 18s cannot attend overnight trips due to safeguarding concerns.
- **High-Risk Sports:** Under 18s cannot participate in certain high-risk sports or activities. These have been determined by the LSESU activity risk rating. Each activity is scored by the intrinsic activity risk, location, environment, medical provision and equipment risk.

Please see the list of high-risk sports below: (This list is not exhaustive; there may also be certain events not accessible for under 18s. If you are unsure if your event is accessible to under 18s, please contact your relevant SU contact.)

<u>Sports clubs</u>	<u>Further information</u>
Rugby	Identified as the most hazardous sport by Endsleigh (insurance providers) and scored high on the activity risk rating
Surfing	External water-based sport
Wakeboarding	External water-based sport
Equestrian and Polo	Scored high on the activity risk rating
All BUCS and LUSL competitions	Under 18s cannot compete under rules and regulations
Fight Night events (e.g. Boxing/ Muay Thai)	Higher risk of injury based on activity

<u>Societies</u>	<u>Further information</u>
Any alcohol-based societies	Under-18s not permitted at alcohol-based events
Outdoors and Hiking	External, higher risk activity
Automotive and Karting	Motorsport- increased risk of injury

- **Alcohol-Based Social Events:** Under 18s cannot attend social events centered around drinking alcohol.
- **Student Elections:** Under 18s are not eligible to run in student elections.
- **Running Events:** Under 18s cannot take responsibility for running or organising events.

These restrictions are in place to ensure the safety and welfare of under 18 students. If you are unsure about whether an event or activity is suitable for under 18s, please contact your relevant SU contact.

9. Responsibilities

To safeguard all students under the age of 18, the following responsibilities are key.

Responsibilities of Club/Society Committees:

- **Ensure Safe and Inclusive Environments:** Clubs and societies must create a welcoming and safe atmosphere for all students, particularly those under 18.
- **Risk Assessments:** Under 18 members must be considered as a part of activity and event risk assessments.
- **Follow Safeguarding Procedures:** Any under 18 students wishing to join must follow specific steps for approval outlined above.
- **DBS Checks for Coaches:** All coaches or instructors must undergo a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check as part of the recruitment process.
- **Report Concerns:** If Club or Society committees have concerns about any activity or interaction, they should report it to the relevant LSESU staff member immediately.

Responsibilities of LSESU Managers and Coordinators:

- **Implement Safeguarding Training:** Managers and Coordinators must ensure safeguarding training is included as part of the committee induction process, ensuring all committee members understand their responsibilities towards under 18s.
- **Review and Deliver Relevant Safeguarding Training:** Managers are responsible for regularly reviewing and delivering safeguarding training to ensure it remains up-to-date, relevant, and in line with current best practices.
- **Notify New Committees of the Onboarding Process for Under 18 Students:** Managers and Coordinators should inform new committees about the process for onboarding under 18 students, ensuring they understand all steps involved and the safeguarding procedures they must follow.
- **Communicate DBS Requirements for Coaches:** Managers and Coordinators must clearly communicate the requirement for coaches and

instructors to have a valid DBS check, ensuring this process is consistently followed.

- **Under 18s Risk Assessment Guidance:** Managers and Coordinators should provide guidance to ensure that under 18s attending any club or society activity are included in the risk assessments. This ensures that any potential risks are identified and mitigated.

Responsibilities of Under 18 Students:

- **Follow Safeguarding Guidelines:** Under 18 students must comply with all safeguarding rules and guidelines outlined by the LSESU, the club and society.
- **Respect Boundaries:** Under 18 students must respect the boundaries set by their club or society, including the restrictions on activities they can participate in (e.g., not attending alcohol-based social events or overnight trips).
- **Report Concerns:** If under 18 students feel uncomfortable or have concerns about any activity or interaction, they should report it to a club/society committee member or LSESU staff immediately.

10. Review

This safeguarding policy and procedure for under 18s will be reviewed annually by the Sports and Recreation Manager in partnership with the Human Resources Manager.

11. Contacts

For any queries or additional information, please contact the following:

- **Sports Clubs (General Enquiries):** su.sport@lse.ac.uk
- **Societies (General Enquiries):** su.societies@lse.ac.uk