



**UGANDA
CLIMBING**

APPROVED POLICY / VERSION 1.0

SAFEGUARDING & SAFE SPORT.



A practical standard for preventing harm,
responding to concerns and making climbing
safer for every participant.

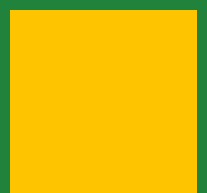


APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / SEPTEMBER 2026

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FEEL SAFE.

Uganda Climbing is committed to a sport environment free from abuse, harassment, exploitation, discrimination, bullying, neglect and avoidable harm.

- This policy applies to athletes, children, parents, coaches, officials, volunteers, employees, contractors, clubs, teams and guests participating in federation activity.
- It applies in training, competition, travel, accommodation, meetings, online spaces, communications and any activity carried out in Uganda Climbing's name.
- A child is a person under 18. The child's best interests and voice must guide every safeguarding decision.
- Safe Sport means preventing and responding to non-accidental harm while promoting dignity, inclusion, physical safety and psychological well-being.



RESPECT IS NOT OPTIONAL.

EVERYONE MUST

- Treat every person with dignity and respect, regardless of age, sex, disability, background, identity or performance level.
- Use safe, age-appropriate coaching and follow venue, equipment and supervision rules.
- Listen when someone raises discomfort or concern, and act without retaliation.
- Maintain clear professional boundaries and challenge unsafe conduct.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

- Physical, sexual or emotional abuse; grooming; exploitation; neglect; bullying; hazing; harassment or discrimination.
- Corporal punishment, humiliating training, sexualised comments or unnecessary intimate contact.
- A sexual or exploitative relationship where there is a position of trust, authority or dependency.
- Retaliation, intimidation or punishment for making or supporting a good-faith report.

ADULTS CARRY THE RESPONSIBILITY.

- Plan appropriate supervision and avoid being isolated one-to-one with a child where the interaction cannot be observed or interrupted.
- Obtain parent or guardian permission for travel, overnight stays, medical decisions and identifiable media, and consult the child in an age-appropriate way.
- Use changing rooms, physical assistance and first aid only as necessary, respectfully and with privacy safeguards.
- Use group or official communication channels. Do not send secretive, sexual, threatening or disappearing messages to a child.
- Do not transport or host a child alone except in a documented emergency or approved arrangement with the parent or guardian informed.
- Never promise absolute secrecy. Explain that information may need to be shared with people who can protect the person at risk.

If a child discloses harm: listen calmly, do not investigate or confront the alleged person, record the child's own words, preserve evidence and report promptly.

PLAN SAFETY BEFORE THE FIRST MOVE.

- Complete activity and venue risk checks, identify emergency arrangements and use suitably competent coaches, officials and belayers.
- Set supervision ratios according to age, ability, activity, venue and risk. Keep attendance and emergency-contact records securely.
- Use transparent rooming plans for overnight travel. Adults should not share a room with a child who is not their own child, except in a documented emergency.
- Provide separate and private changing arrangements where reasonably possible, including suitable arrangements for para athletes.
- Follow medical advice, anti-doping rules and return-to-sport guidance. Do not pressure an injured or distressed athlete to continue.
- Record accidents, near misses and safeguarding concerns separately. A safety incident may also require a safeguarding response.

ACCESSIBILITY

Safeguarding arrangements must work for participants with disabilities, communication needs and different levels of independence.

PROTECT THE PERSON, NOT JUST THE FILE.

- Use official accounts and channels. Adults should not use personal or disappearing-message accounts for private communication with children.
- Obtain specific parent or guardian consent before publishing identifiable media of a child, and seek the child's agreement in an age-appropriate way.
- Do not publish a child's home address, school, date of birth, medical information, personal contact details or live location.
- Collect only information needed for a defined safeguarding purpose. Restrict access, use strong authentication and delete or de-identify records when no longer required.
- Do not forward incident reports through ordinary group chats or discuss allegations on social media.
- A lawful request from police, child-protection services or another competent authority must be handled by an authorised federation officer.

Related policy: Uganda Climbing Child Media & Photography Policy and its parent/guardian consent register.

SPEAK UP. WE WILL LISTEN.

Anyone may report a concern about something experienced, witnessed, disclosed or suspected. A report may be named or anonymous. Anonymous reports can limit follow-up, but will still be assessed.

- Online: ugandaclimbing.org/report-concern
- Email: office@ugandaclimbing.org
- Child-protection support: call Sauti 116 toll-free, 24 hours a day.
- Immediate danger or a crime in progress: call Uganda Police on 999 or 112, or contact the nearest police station.

IMPORTANT

The Uganda Climbing online form is not an emergency service. Do not delay contacting police, Sauti 116, medical services or a local child-protection authority when urgent help is needed.

SAFETY FIRST. FAIR PROCESS.

- Acknowledge the report where contact is possible, record it securely and assess immediate safety needs without unnecessary delay.
- Do not run an informal investigation. Preserve evidence and refer suspected criminal conduct or child-rights violations to the appropriate authority.
- Share information only with people who need it for protection, referral, legal compliance or a fair process. Confidentiality cannot be absolute.
- Use interim protective measures where necessary. These are precautionary and do not predetermine an outcome.
- Give affected people information about next steps where lawful and safe. Avoid exposing the reporter or person at risk to retaliation.
- Keep a clear decision and action log, review risk as circumstances change, and close a case only when actions and referrals are recorded.

LEGAL DUTY

Uganda's Children Act requires child-rights infringements and suspected abuse to be reported to relevant authorities in the circumstances set by law. The federation will cooperate with lawful safeguarding and criminal-justice processes.

KEEP SAFEGUARDING ALIVE.

- The Executive Board is accountable for implementation and for appointing an appropriate safeguarding focal person or case lead.
- Clubs and teams must nominate a safeguarding contact, brief participants, use safer recruitment checks appropriate to the role and support required training.
- Conflicts of interest must be declared. No person should manage a concern involving themselves, a close associate or a matter where impartiality may reasonably be questioned.
- This policy should be reviewed at least annually and after a serious incident, material legal change or identified weakness.

SAFEGUARDING AND POLICY ENQUIRIES

office@ugandaclimbing.org

Public reporting form: ugandaclimbing.org/report-concern



**UGANDA
CLIMBING**