

Vetting and Barring Scheme 12 October 2009

The Statement below has been released today by the Home Office on the new Vetting and Barring Scheme and is published with permission. The Vetting and Barring Scheme generic guidance referred to in the below statement is available on the ASA website under Wavepower 2009/11 Associated Documents. The ASA are members of the Sports Consultative Group for the scheme. Sports Specific guidance is currently being written by Government and the ASA expect to see this towards the end of 2009. Following the release of this guidance to the ASA, swimming specific information for clubs and our members will be published.

Increased safeguards under the new Vetting & Barring Scheme (VBS)

The new scheme was created following the Bichard Inquiry into the Soham murders and will be delivered by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and the CRB. Its tighter regulations are at the heart of the Government's strategy for increasing protection of vulnerable members of our society.

From 12 October 2009:

- It is now a criminal offence for individuals barred by the ISA to work or apply to work with children or vulnerable adults in a wide range of posts - including most NHS jobs, Prison Service, education and childcare. Employers also face criminal sanctions for knowingly employing a barred individual across a wider range of work;
- The three former barred lists (POCA, POVA and List 99) are being replaced by two new ISA-barred lists;
- Employers, local authorities, professional regulators and other bodies have a duty to refer to the ISA, information about individuals working with children or vulnerable adults where they consider them to have caused harm or pose a risk of harm. Referral forms and referral guidance are available from the ISA website.
- VBS Guidance is now available covering the increased safeguards and the duties to refer introduced from 12 October.

Please note: ISA-registration for the Vetting and Barring Scheme does not start for new workers or those moving jobs until July 2010 and ISA-registration does not become mandatory for these workers until November 2010. All other staff will be phased into the scheme from 2011. Further information on how to apply for registration will be provided in due course.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.isa.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

12 October 2009

