

Wigtown Bay Sailing Club

Welfare Policy

Wigtown Bay's Welfare Policy is compiled following the RYA'S Safeguarding and Child protection guidelines.

Wigtown Bay Sailing Club's Policy is designed to enable children, young adults and vulnerable persons to enjoy the sport of sailing, kayaking and power boating in a safe environment. The children's act 1989 defines any person under the age of 18 as a child. In this document and in day to day communications the terms 'children' and 'young people' are both used, recognising that older teenagers may not wish to be referred to as a child. The safeguarding principles in this document also applies to 'vulnerable adults'.

AIMS OF THE POLICY:

1. To create a safe and welcoming environment, both on and off the water, where children, young people and vulnerable adults can have fun and develop their skills and confidence.
2. To safeguard children, young adults and vulnerable adults from physical and emotional harm, both on and off the water.
3. To assure parents/guardians that their children are participating in activities within a safe environment which follows the RYA : Safeguarding and Child protection policy and guidelines.
4. To raise awareness amongst all our members and volunteers so that they know what to do if they are concerned about a child, whether the concern relates to the child welfare or something outside the club that a child discloses to someone they trust within the club.
5. To protect Coaches, Instructors, Officials and volunteer helpers by giving them some practical, common sense guidelines to avoid placing themselves in situations where they are open to allegations which could seriously damage their lives and careers.
6. To the club , by showing that we have taken all 'reasonable steps' to provide a safe environment.

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of Wigtown Bay Sailing Club to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults taking part in water sports from physical, sexual or emotional harm. The Club will take all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, children, young people and vulnerable adults participating in Club activities do so in a safe environment. We recognise that the safety and welfare of the Child is paramount and that all Children, young people and vulnerable adults, irrespective of sex, age, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual identity or social status, have a right to protection from abuse. For the purpose of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. ALL Members of the Club should be aware of the policy.

Club welfare officers are:

Kay Fisher Gannon - kay.Fisher@arup.co.uk

CLUB OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS.

All officers and volunteers whose role brings them into regular contact with young people will be asked to complete a self- disclosure form. The Club welfare officers and those who regularly instruct, coach and supervise young people will be asked to apply for a Protection of Vulnerable Groups certificate.(PVG)

GOOD PRACTICE.

All members of the Club should be aware of and follow the Good Practice guidelines outlined in this policy and agree to abide by the Club Code of Conduct and the RYA Racing Rules of Sailing. Those working or volunteering with young people should be aware of the guidelines on recognising abuse (See App A)

Adults are requested not to enter the changing/shower rooms at times when young people are changing. A restriction sign indicating that cadets are changing is placed at the entrance of the changing room corridor. If, in cases of emergency, it is unavoidable to enter the room then it is advised that they are accompanied by another adult.

The Club will seek written consent from the young person and their parents/guardians before taking photos or videos at an event or training session or publishing such images. Parents and spectators should be prepared to identify themselves if requested and start their purpose for photography/filming. If the Club publishes images of children, no identifying information, other than names will be provided. Any concerns about inappropriate use of images should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer.

CONCERNS.

Any member of the Club failing to comply with the Safeguarding policy and any relevant Codes of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action under the Club Rules (5.5.1 WBSC Constitution).

ROLE OF THE WELFARE OFFICER

Maintaining an up to date policy and procedures, compatible with RYA's Child Protection and Guidelines Policy.

Ensuring that relevant volunteers are aware of and follow the procedures, including implementing safe recruitment procedures.

Advising the committee on Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.

Maintaining contact details for local Children's Services and Police.

In case of any concerns

Be the first point of contact for any concerns or allegations from children and adults ensuring that confidentiality is maintained in all cases.

Decide on the appropriate actions to be taken, in line with the procedures, and in conjunction with the commodore.

Keep the RYA informed as necessary.

The RYA Safeguarding and Equality Manager is Jackie Reid Tel: 23 8060 4104 email- Jackie.reid@rya.co.uk.

HANDLING CONCERNS, REPORTS AND ALLEGATIONS

ALWAYS

Stay calm. Ensure that the child is safe and feels secure.

Show and tell the child that you are taking what he/she says seriously.

Re-assure the child that he/she is not to blame.

Be careful about physical contact – it may be not what the child wants.

Be honest. Explain that you will have to tell someone else to help stop the alleged abuse.

Make a record of what the child has said as soon as possible – using the child's own words.

Follow the club's Child Protection Procedures. (see flow charts)

NEVER

Rush into actions that may be inappropriate.

Make promises that you cannot keep – i.e you won't tell.

Ask leading questions, i.e questions that only need a yes/no for an answer. Ask questions that need an explanation.' How did you get that bruise?' – 'Tell me what happened?'

Take sole responsibility.

NEVER – make light of the situation by implying that they are exaggerating or that they are a wimp and it was just a bit of fun.

RECORDING AND HANDLING INFORMATION.

If the child may have been the subject of any form of physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect, the allegation must be referred to as soon as possible to Children's Social Services or the Police who have trained experts to handle such cases.

Do not do anything or ask leading questions which may jeopardise any formal investigation.

All information must be treated as confidential and only shared with people who need to know – the parents/guardians, the Commodore and the relevant RYA Safeguarding Manager. If the alleged abuse took place outside the sport, the Police and Social Services will decide who else need to be informed. It should not be discussed by anyone else within the club.

Confidential information must be stored securely and when no longer required, it should be destroyed safely, preferably by shredding.