

BROADWATER SAILING CLUB

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Issued: 31/1/2024

Expires: 31/1/2025

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Broadwater Sailing Club to safeguard children and young people taking part in boating from physical, sexual or emotional harm. The Club will take all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, children 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, whatever their age, gender, disability, culture, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, social status or sexual identity, have a right to protection from abuse.

For the purposes 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.

This policy relates to all volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults. It will be kept under periodic review. All relevant concerns, allegations, complaints and their outcome should be notified to the club's welfare officer(s).

Although the club has a duty of care to its members, and particularly to young people who cannot take full responsibility for their own safety, parents must be responsible for their children's welfare and behaviour, or designate another adult to take that responsibility (See Appendix 2, Code of Conduct).

The Club actively seeks to:

- Create a safe and welcoming environment, both on and off the water, where children can have fun and develop their skills and confidence.
- Recognise that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work with children.
- Ensure that all club events are run to the highest possible safety standards.
- Be prepared to review its ways of working to incorporate best practice in accordance with advice from the RYA.

We will:

- Treat all children with respect and celebrate their achievements.
- Carefully select all volunteers.
- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all complaints and concerns about poor practice or suspected or actual child abuse.

Club Welfare Officer(s)

The Club Welfare Officers are:-

Tim Davies 07841 917374

daviestim9@gmail.com

and

Andy Chaplin 07557 111647

ahchaplin@btinternet.com

The designated person(s) will:

- Maintain an up to date policy and procedures, compatible with the RYA's guidelines.
- Ensure that relevant volunteers are aware of and follow the procedures.
- Advise the management committee on safeguarding and child protection issues.
- Maintain contact details for local Children's Services and Police.

If there is a concern, the designated person would:

- Be the first point of contact for any concerns or allegations, from children or adults, ensuring that confidentiality is maintained in all cases.
- Decide on the appropriate action to be taken, in line with the organisation's procedures and in conjunction with the Commodore.
- Keep the RYA informed as necessary.

Good Practice

All members of the Club should follow the Good Practice Guidelines, see Appendix 1.

Recognising Abuse

Those working with young people should be aware of the guidance on recognising abuse See RYA Appendix A <http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/youthjunior/information/Pages/Policies.aspx>.

Photography

The Club will seek written consent from the child and their parents/carers when they join the club and yearly when they renew their membership. When taking photos or video at an event or training session or publishing such images members will bear in mind the guidelines set out in Appendix 3

Responding to complaints

Broadwater Sailing Club will respond swiftly and appropriately to all complaints and concerns about poor practice or suspected or actual child abuse, in accordance with the guidelines published by the RYA.

APPENDIX 1

Good Practice Guidelines

This guide only covers the essential points of good practice when working with children and young people. Further information is available on the RYA website, <http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/youthjunior/information/Pages/Policies.aspx>

Minimizing Risk:

- Avoid spending any significant time working with children in isolation
- Do not take children alone in a car, however short the journey
- Do not take children to your home as part of your organisation's activity
- Where any of these are unavoidable, ensure that they only occur with the full knowledge and consent of the child's parents
- Design sailing programmes that are within the ability of the individual child
- If a child is having difficulty with a wetsuit or buoyancy aid, ask them to ask a friend to help if at all possible
- If you do have to help a child, make sure you are in full view of others, preferably another adult

You should never:

- engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games
- allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form
- allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged, or use such language yourself when with children
- make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- fail to respond to an allegation made by a child; always act
- do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves.

It may sometimes be necessary to do things of a personal nature for children, particularly if they are very young or disabled. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of the child (where possible) and their parents/carers. In an emergency situation which requires this type of help, parents should be fully informed. In such situations it is important to ensure that any adult present is sensitive to the child and undertakes personal care tasks with the utmost discretion.

APPENDIX 2

Broadwater Sailing Club Code of Conduct

It is the policy of Broadwater Sailing Club that all participants officials, parents and volunteers show respect and understanding for each other, treat everyone equally within the context of the sport and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club. The aim is for all participants to enjoy their sport and to improve performance.

Abusive language, swearing, intimidation, aggressive behaviour or lack of respect for others and their property will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action.

Participants – Junior Sailors:

- Listen to and accept what you are asked to do to improve your performance and keep you safe
- Respect other participants, club officials and volunteers
- Abide by the rules and play fairly
- Do your best at all times
- Never bully others either in person, by phone, by text or online
- Take care of all property belonging to other participants, the club or its members

Parents:

The child's parent or guardian must stay at the club with junior members (up to 16 years of age) during sailing unless the parent has delegated parental responsibility to another parent who has accepted this responsibility for the sailing session.

- Support your child's involvement and help them enjoy their sport
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results
- Never force your child to take part in sport
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes
- Encourage and guide your child to accept responsibility for their own conduct and performance
- Respect and support the club officials, volunteers and other parents.
- Accept judgements from volunteers and recognise good performance by all participants
- Use established procedures where there is a genuine concern or dispute
- Inform the club or event organisers of relevant medical information
- Ensure that your child wears suitable clothing and has appropriate food and drink
- Provide contact details and be available when required
- Take responsibility for your child's safety and conduct in and around the clubhouse and foreshore.

Volunteers:

- Consider the welfare and safety of participants before the development of performance
- Encourage participants to value their performance and not just results
- Promote fair play and never condone cheating
- Ensure that all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part
- Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect
- Work in an open environment
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with young people
- Be an excellent role model and display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Do not drink alcohol or smoke when working directly with young people
- Communicate clearly with parents and participants
- Be aware of any relevant medical information
- Follow RYA and club/class guidelines and policies
- Holders of RYA Instructor and Coach qualifications must also comply with the RYA Code of Ethics and Conduct
- Holders of RYA Race Official appointments must also comply with the RYA Race Officials Code of Conduct.

If you are concerned that someone is not following the Code of Conduct, you should inform your Club Welfare Officer or the person in charge of the activity.

APPENDIX 3

Photography guidelines

Publishing articles and photos in club newsletters, websites, local newspapers etc is an excellent way of recognising young people's achievements and of promoting Broadwater and the sport as a whole. However it is important to minimise the risk of anyone using images of children in an inappropriate way. Digital technology makes it easy to take, store, send, manipulate and publish images.

- 🎬 Written consent from the child and their parents/carers will be sought .on the use of photography and video, including its use as a learning aid, when they join the club and yearly when they renew their membership.
- 🎬 Any member of the press or media attending an event should wear identification at all times and should be fully briefed in advance on your expectations regarding his/her behaviour and the issues covered by these guidelines.
- 🎬 Do not allow a photographer to have unsupervised access to young people at the event or to arrange photo sessions outside the event.
- 🎬 Care must be taken in the storage of and access to images.

When publishing images, make sure they are appropriate and that you do not include any information that might enable someone to contact the child

- 🎬 It is preferable to use a general shot showing participants on the water, or a group shot of the prize winners, without identifying them by name.
- 🎬 If you are recognising the achievement of an individual sailor and wish to publish their name with their photo, DO NOT publish any other information (eg. where they live, name of school, other hobbies and interests) that would enable someone to contact, befriend or start to 'groom' the child.
- 🎬 Ensure that the young people pictured are suitably dressed, to reduce the risk of inappropriate use.

Most sailing activity takes place in areas that are open to the public and it is therefore not possible to control all photography, but any concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography, or about the inappropriate use of images, should be reported to the organisation's welfare officer and treated in the same way as any other child protection concern. Parents and spectators should be prepared to identify themselves if requested and state their purpose for photography/filming. The use of cameras or camera phones in changing areas should not be permitted in any circumstances. Such use by young people should be regarded as a form of bullying