



# **Tees & Hartlepool Yacht Club Safeguarding Policy and Procedures**

Updated March 2024

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## **Part 1 - Policy**

### **1 THYC Safeguarding Policy Statement**

It is the policy of Tees & Hartlepool Yacht 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, irrespective of sex, age, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual identity or social status, 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.

### **Club Welfare Officer**

The Club Welfare Officer is Clare Hope

Phone: 07973 709685

Email: [safeguarding@thyc.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@thyc.org.uk)

### **Staff and Volunteers**

The Club Welfare Officer and those regularly instructing, coaching or supervising, in regular contact with young people will be asked to apply for an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure.

### **Good Practice**

All members of the Club should follow the good practice guidelines attached (*see appendix A*) and agree to abide by the Club Code of Conduct (*see Appendix B*) and the RYA Racing Charter contained in the Racing Rules of Sailing. Those working or volunteering with young people should be aware of the guidance on recognising abuse (*see Appendix C*).

Adults are requested not to enter the showers and changing rooms at times when children are changing before or after junior/youth training or racing. If this is unavoidable it is advised that they are accompanied by another adult.

The Club will seek written consent from the child and their parents/carers before taking photos or video at an event or training session or publishing such images. Parents and spectators should be prepared to identify themselves if requested and state their purpose for photography/filming. If the Club publishes images of children, no identifying information other than names will be included. Any concerns about inappropriate or intrusive

photography or the inappropriate use of images should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer.

### **Concerns**

Anyone who is concerned about a young member's welfare, either outside the sport or within the Club, should inform the Club Welfare Officer immediately, in strict confidence. The Club Welfare Officer will follow the attached procedures (*see RYA Flowcharts 1 and 2*).

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 Club Rule 13.

## Part 2

### 2 Designated person

The designated person's general terms of reference:

- Maintaining an up-to-date policy and procedures, compatible with the RYA's.
- Ensuring that relevant staff and/or volunteers are aware of and follow the procedures, including implementing safe recruitment procedures.
- Advising the management committee on safeguarding and child protection issues.
- Maintaining 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 person in charge (Commodore, Principal etc).
- Keep the RYA informed as necessary (see *RYA flowcharts 1 and 2*).

### 3 Safe recruitment

The Club Welfare Officer and those regularly instructing, coaching, supervising or in regular contact with young people will be asked to apply for an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure.

**It is a criminal offence under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006** for a Barred individual to work in Regulated Activity, for an organisation to knowingly allow someone who has been Barred to work in Regulated Activity/Regulated Work, and for an organisation to fail to make a referral to the DBS/Disclosure Scotland if they have dismissed someone from Regulated Activity/Regulated Work for harming or posing a risk of harm to a vulnerable person.

New volunteers will be asked to provide copies of their qualifications and be asked about their previous relevant experience.

New volunteers will be given an introduction to the training centre, the operating procedures and be guided/supervised during sessions. The principle or senior instructor will always be on site during sessions.

## 4 Good practice guidelines

### Culture

It is important to develop a culture within THYC where both children and adults feel able to raise concerns, knowing that they will be taken seriously, treated confidentially and will not make the situation worse for themselves or others.

Some children may be more vulnerable to abuse or find it more difficult to express their concerns. For example, a disabled child who relies on a carer to help them get changed may worry that they won't be able to sail any more if they report the carer. A child who has experienced racism may find it difficult to trust an adult from a different ethnic background.

### Minimising risk *(see also Good Practice Guide, Sample Appendix A)*

- 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 someone in charge of the organisation or the child's parents
- Design training 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 both the child (where possible) and their parents/carers. In an emergency situation which requires this type of help, parents/carers should be informed as soon as possible. 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.

## **Responsibilities of volunteers**

All volunteers have a responsibility to abide by the THYC Safeguarding Policy & procedures. All volunteers must sign the relevant document to show that they have read and understood the Policy & Procedures and they will be issued with a “Good Practice Guide” and a guide on “Recognising Signs of Abuse”

RYA Coaches and instructors are expected to comply with the RYA Instructor Codes of Conduct (*see appendix D*)

## **Parental responsibility and club liability**

Parents play an essential part in their children’s participation, but occasionally their desire to see their child achieve success can put the child under too much pressure or give rise to friction between families or interference in coaching. THYC have a Code of Conduct (*see Appendix B*) that can be signed up to by everyone involved, whether they are participants, parents, staff or volunteers, so that everyone is aware of their responsibilities towards each other and appropriate action can be taken if anyone’s behaviour fails to meet the expectations set out in the Code.

Although the club has a duty of care to their 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, outside formal club-organised activities.

When children are attending an organised training or coaching session or activity, the organisers have a duty of care for their safety and welfare at all times. If the club requires a parent (or designated responsible adult) to be on site, responsibility is with the instructor/volunteer running the session throughout. Where there is just cause, instructors/volunteers may remove a participant from a session and ask the parent(or designated responsible adult) to take responsibility.

## **Changing Rooms and Showers**

It is preferable for adults to stay away from the changing rooms while there are children there. If this is unavoidable because adults are sailing at the same times, or the site is open to the public, it is better if one adult is not alone. Parents should be made aware that adult club members and/or members of the public may be in the changing rooms.

Bullying can be an issue in changing rooms and showers (*see below*).

THYC changing rooms have key fob access that will only allow members into the relevant areas. In the case of the changing rooms only males can access the male changing rooms and females can access the female changing rooms.

The Jack & Jill Disabled changing facilities are locked at either end and only those who have a need for the use of this facility will be given a key to access it.



The exceptions to the above are key holders who need access to the whole building for maintenance and alarm call outs. These people will also be subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure and will also sign up to the club Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

If it is essential, in an emergency situation, for a male to enter a female changing area or vice versa, it is advised that they are accompanied by another adult of the opposite sex.

When entering a changing room of the opposite sex a person should first knock loudly on the door. Open the door just enough so that anyone inside can hear them shout “**is anyone in.**” Wait for a response. If no response, shout again “**I am entering**” before going into the room.

## **Staff Changing**

Staff should aim to be changed prior to group arrival and after group departure to negate the need for using changing rooms at the same time as students. Outside of club opening hours, there are the upstairs toilets that can be used for changing.

During voluntary run club sessions where volunteer instructors and helpers may arrive at different times, it is appreciated that changing facilities may need to be used at the same time as students. In this instance, adult volunteers should never enter a changing room alone. Preferably have more than 1 adult and more than 1 youngster in the changing rooms at a time.

## **Bullying**

THYC consider bullying of any kind unacceptable.

If a child alleges bullying or shows signs of being bullied, this must be investigated. For a definition of bullying, (see *Appendix C*).

All participants are asked to sign up to the Clubs Code of Conduct (*Appendix B*)

## **Managing challenging behaviour**

### **Prior to the activity:**

You should establish before taking a group of young people on an activity whether any child has a specific behavioural diagnosis, ie Autistic spectrum, ADHD, Tourette's syndrome etc. Specialist advice and support should be sought for working with these children.

The following guidelines are for working with young people displaying challenging behaviour. Always confirm the group's agreement:

- Establish behaviour expectations from the outset, explain who is in charge and why (safety etc)
- Explain boundaries and respect for property and each other
- Explain sanctions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour

### **During the activity:**

When working with groups or individuals with challenging behaviour:

- Employ your own method for memorising individual names – but do so as soon as possible

- Try to establish a relationship with your group, particularly those exhibiting challenging behaviour, eg by showing an interest in them
- Give positive reinforcement, ie praise 'good' behaviour and achievements
- Keep challenging members of the group busy by giving them small tasks of responsibility
- Avoid confrontation
- Avoid physical contact, punishment or threat of such
- Avoid physical restraint – use only for safety of the young person or other members of the group (see below)
- Avoid negative instructions ie instead of “Stop doing .....” say, “It would be better if .....”

### **Possible options and sanctions:**

In responding to challenging behaviour the response should always be proportionate to the actions, be imposed as soon as is practicable and be fully explained to the child and their parents/carers. In dealing with children who display negative or challenging behaviours, staff and volunteers might consider the following options:

- Time out - from the activity, group or individual work.
- Reparation - the act or process of making amends.
- Restitution - the act of giving something back.
- Behavioural reinforcement - rewards for good behaviour, consequences for negative behaviour.
- De-escalation of the situation - talking through with the child.
- Increased supervision by staff/volunteers.
- Use of individual 'contracts' or agreements for their future or continued participation.
- Sanctions or consequences e.g. missing an outing.
- Seeking additional/specialist support through working in partnership with other agencies to ensure a child's needs are met appropriately e.g. referral for support to Children's Social Care, discussion with the child's key worker if they have one,
- speaking to the child's school about management strategies (all require parental consent unless the child is felt to be 'at risk' or 'in need of protection').
- Temporary or permanent exclusion.

### **Should problems arise:**

- Do not humiliate or verbally abuse the young person
- Discuss the problem one-to-one, ensure you always have another adult present and never in front of the whole group
- Do not criticise the young person, only their behaviour
- Remind them of consequences/sanctions, employing your own policies, ie 'three strikes and you're out' or second/ final warning etc
- Always give them a choice (and therefore responsibility) if they fail to comply, for how things turn out, ie “If you choose not to follow my instructions, then you are accepting the consequences” or “If you make the right choice .... it would be a really good result for you and the group”. Give them some time to make their decision without further discussion.

**Physical Intervention:**

The use of physical intervention should always be avoided unless it is absolutely necessary to prevent a child injuring themselves or others, or causing serious damage to property. All forms of physical intervention should form part of a broader approach to the management of challenging behaviour.

Physical contact to prevent something happening should always be the result of conscious decision-making and not a reaction. Before physically intervening, the member of staff or volunteer should ask themselves 'Is this the only option in order to manage the situation and ensure safety?'. It is good practice to ensure that if you have to physically intervene in a situation with a child/young person, it is in the least restrictive way necessary to prevent them from getting hurt, and used only after all other strategies have been exhausted. Studies have shown that, where this is the case, children and young people understand and accept the reasons for the intervention.

**For your own protection:**

- Never be alone with a student
- Keep a written record of any specific behavioural incidents
- Note the names of witnesses to such incidents

**First aid and medical treatment**

First aid is part of the clubs normal duty of care. Consent and Medical Declaration forms must be completed by all participants.

**Organising and hosting events**

When hosting an open junior or youth event at THYC will liaise with the relevant class associations or event organisers to ensure that all involved in the organisation of the event are operating to similar policies. It should be made clear to all young competitors and their parents that there is someone responsible for their welfare who can be contacted if they have any concerns.

The RYA Racing Department, in conjunction with the recognised junior and youth classes, has developed guidelines covering all aspects of running a major junior or youth event and these are available to clubs and class associations on request. RYA organised events will be run under these guidelines. The Child Protection in Sport Unit also publishes a comprehensive guide 'Safe Sports Events'

**Away Events**

It is essential that those accompanying young people to away events or training camps, and the competitors themselves, have a clear understanding of their responsibilities and the conduct expected of them (*see Appendix F*).

**Communicating with young people**

The world of the internet, social media and apps is constantly and rapidly evolving and it is hard to keep up to date, but it is important for parents and for anyone working with young people to develop some understanding of how they use technology, the risks involved and

how to keep them safe. Suggested sources of information, mainly intended for parents but useful for anyone, are:

[www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware)    [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)    [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

## **Club websites and social media**

When promoting THYC and encouraging members to interact online, there are a few issues to bear in mind in relation to children and young people:

- follow the guidance on the use of images of children (see Photography section below)
- ensure that the content and language on your site or page, including contributions to blogs, forums etc, is not inappropriate for younger visitors and does not link directly to unsuitable material on other sites
- Any inappropriate content shall be reported to the Welfare officer for immediately for removal.

See the club social media policy for further information and guidance.

## **Coaches and Instructors**

When working with children and young people you are advised to:

- avoid using over-familiar language and try to copy in the child's parent/carer
- only communicate regarding organisational matters, not for social or personal contact.

When using social media, it is recommended that you:

- have a personal and a professional page for your social media
- do not allow young sailors to follow or be friends with your personal account
- set your privacy settings as high as possible on your personal account
- challenge the way that young sailors post or comment to you or others on social media if it is inappropriate
- educate young sailors about the boundaries between them and their Coach or Instructor.

## **Parents**

Organisations are responsible for the content published on their sites, but parents must accept responsibility for their children's access to and use of computers, tablets and smartphones. See the links at the above for guidance.

## **Children and young people**

Unfortunately online communication and texting can often be used as a means of bullying. 'Cyberbullying' should be treated in the same way as any other form of bullying.

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) provides guidance for children and young people in different age groups.

## **Photography**

Publishing articles, photos and videos in the club newsletter, on the website, in local newspapers etc is an excellent way of recognising young people's achievements and of promoting THYC 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.

There are two key principles to bear in mind:

### **Before taking photos or video, obtain written consent from the child and their parents/carers for their images to be taken and used**

- A consent form could be included with the event entry form.
- Any photographer or 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.
- Consent should also be obtained for the use of video as a coaching aid. Any other use by a coach will be regarded as a breach of the RYA's Code of Conduct.
- Images and videos should be stored securely in the office and only be accessed for the use of publicity and coach by the relevant people.

### **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 could 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 clubs 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 smart phones/tablets in changing areas is not permitted in any circumstances. Such use by young people should be regarded as a form of bullying.

## **Safeguarding training**

Organisations should ensure that all staff or volunteers working with children have undertaken training appropriate to their role. This may be through formal training, an online course, induction and mentoring and/or continuing professional development.

A 3 hour basic awareness 'Safeguarding and Protecting children' workshop can be organised at the club through the RYA. There are also similar multi-sport workshops that can be booked via [www.sportscoachuk.org](http://www.sportscoachuk.org)

The RYA has developed an online safeguarding awareness course 'Safe + Fun' which will be offered through a number of RYA Training Centres. From April 2015 it will be a mandatory requirement for those intending to qualify as RYA Instructors, Senior Instructors or Racing Coaches to complete the online course prior to their Instructor or Coach course. The course will also be available to anyone wishing to gain a basic awareness of safeguarding issues, or to refresh their knowledge.

A further online module for Club Welfare Officers is being developed and will be available by the end of June 2015.

## 5 Handling concerns, reports or allegations

**This section is primarily for the organisation's designated Welfare Officer, but everyone should be aware of the procedures to follow if there are concerns (see flowcharts below).**

A complaint, concern or allegation may come from a number of sources: the child, their parents, someone else within your organisation. It may involve the behaviour of one of your volunteers or employees, or something that has happened to the child outside the sport, perhaps at home or at school. Children may confide in adults they trust, in a place where they feel at ease.

An allegation may range from mild verbal bullying to physical or sexual abuse. If you are concerned that a child may be being abused, it is NOT your responsibility to investigate further BUT it is your responsibility to act on your concerns and report them to the appropriate statutory authorities. For guidance on recognising abuse, see Appendix A.

### **Handling an allegation from a child**

#### **Always:**

- stay calm – ensure that the child is safe and feels safe
- show and tell the child that you are taking what he/she says seriously
- reassure the child and stress that he/she is not to blame
- be careful about physical contact, it may not be 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 after the event, using the child's own words
- follow your organisation's child protection procedures.

#### **Never:**

- rush into actions that may be inappropriate
- make promises you cannot keep (eg. you won't tell anyone)

- ask leading questions (see ‘Recording and handling information’ below)
- take sole responsibility – consult someone else (ideally the designated Child Protection/Welfare Officer or the person in charge or someone you can trust) so that you can begin to protect the child and gain support for yourself.

You may be upset about what the child has said or you may worry about the consequences of your actions. Sometimes people worry about children being removed from their families as a result of abuse, but in reality this rarely happens. However, one thing is certain – you cannot ignore it.

### **Recording and handling information**

If you suspect that a child may have been the subject of any form of physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect, the allegation must be referred as soon as possible to Children’s Social Care or the Police who have trained experts to handle such cases. Do not start asking leading questions which may jeopardise any formal investigation.

A leading question is where you suggest an answer or provide options that only need a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer, instead of allowing the child to explain things in their own words. An example would be asking ‘did X hit you?’ instead of ‘how did you get that bruise?’. Use open questions such as ‘what happened next?’. Only ask questions to confirm that you need to refer the matter to someone else. Listen to and keep a record of anything the child tells you or that you have observed and pass the information on to the statutory authorities (see Sample Document 7 for Referral Form).

**All information must be treated as confidential and only shared with those who need to know.** If the allegation or suspicion concerns someone within your club or centre, only the child’s parents/carers, the person in charge of the organisation (unless they are the subject of the allegation), the relevant authorities and the RYA Safeguarding Manager should be informed. If the alleged abuse took place outside the sport, the Police or Children’s Social Care will decide who else needs to be informed, including the child’s parents/carers. It should not be discussed by anyone within the organisation other than the person who received or initiated the allegation and, if different, the person in charge.

Confidential information must be stored securely. It is recommended that it should be retained for at least 3 years and destroyed by secure means, eg. by shredding or burning.



## **Procedures**

It is essential to have clear and agreed procedures to follow. These include:

- procedures to be followed by anyone concerned about a child's welfare, either outside the sport or within your organisation (*see flowcharts below*)
- a disciplinary procedure (which may be included in a staff handbook or contract, depending on the nature of the organisation) setting out the process to be followed if an allegation or complaint is made about an employee
- a procedure for handling a complaint about a member  
The RYA's information sheet on the Expulsion of Members on the website in the Clubs section (you will need your club's login) under Support, Members, includes the key elements of a fair hearing.

## **Statutory Authorities**

If your club or centre is contacted by the Police or Children's Services concerning information received or a complaint made by or about a member, volunteer or employee, you are advised to contact the RYA Safeguarding Manager as soon as possible for guidance and support. Co-operate fully with official requests for factual information, but do not express any personal opinions on the person's conduct. See also 'Handling the media' below.

## **Handling the media**

If there is an incident at your premises which attracts media interest, or if you are contacted by the media with an allegation concerning one of your members or employees, do not give any response until you have had an opportunity to check the facts and seek advice. You may wish to contact the RYA's Communications department on 023 8060 4215 for professional advice on handling the media.

## **Reference to the Disclosure and Barring Service or Disclosure Scotland**

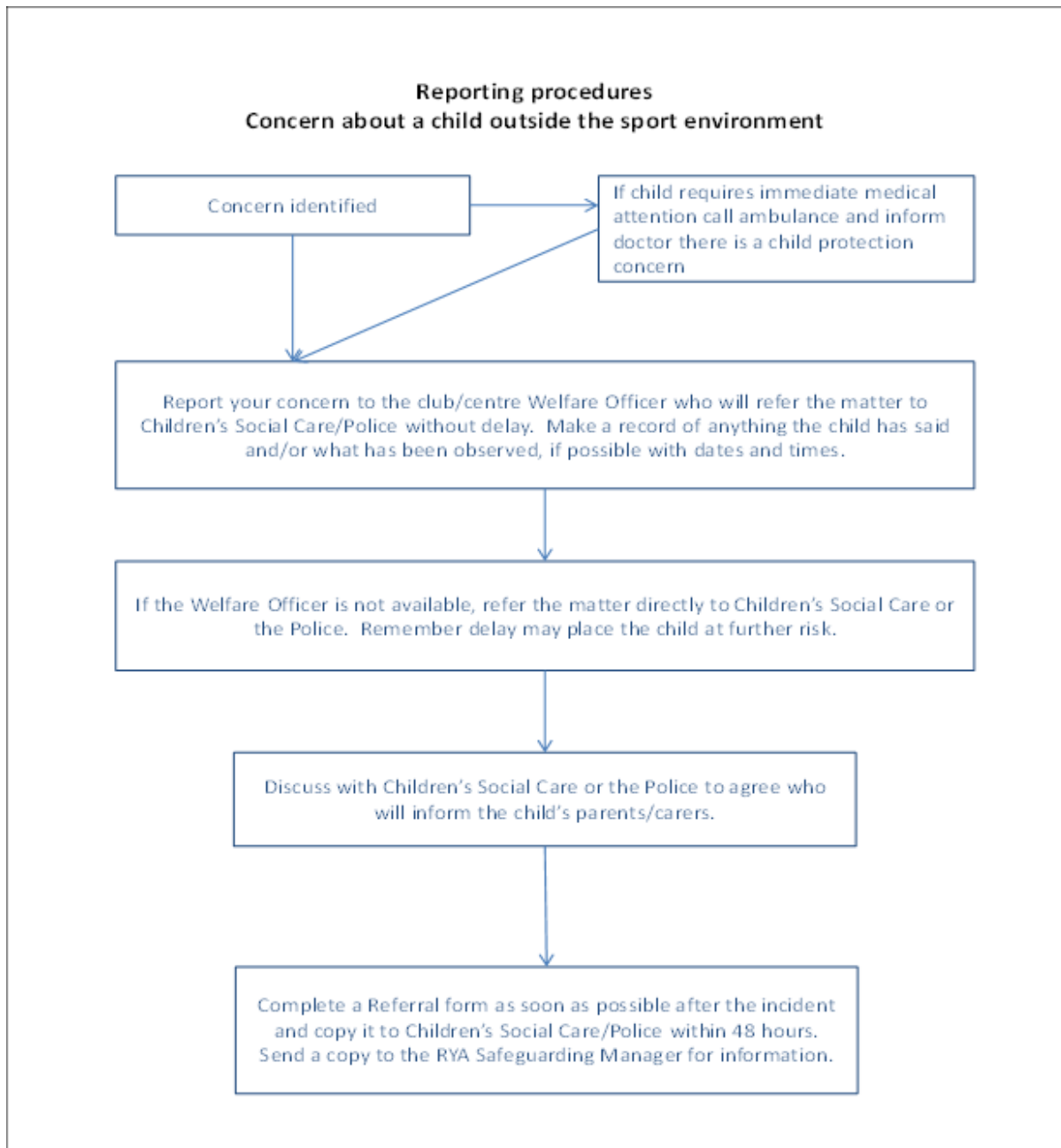
The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) maintains the lists of people barred from working with children or with vulnerable adults in England and Wales and in Northern Ireland. Disclosure Scotland fulfils this function in Scotland. If your organisation permanently dismisses or removes someone from regulated activity/work, or would have dismissed them if they had not resigned, because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult or placed them at risk of harm, you have a duty to refer them to the DBS or Disclosure Scotland, as appropriate. *It is a criminal offence not to make such a referral.* For guidance on the grounds and process for making a referral, see the relevant website (*Useful Contacts*) or contact the RYA Safeguarding Manager.

## **Reporting Procedures**

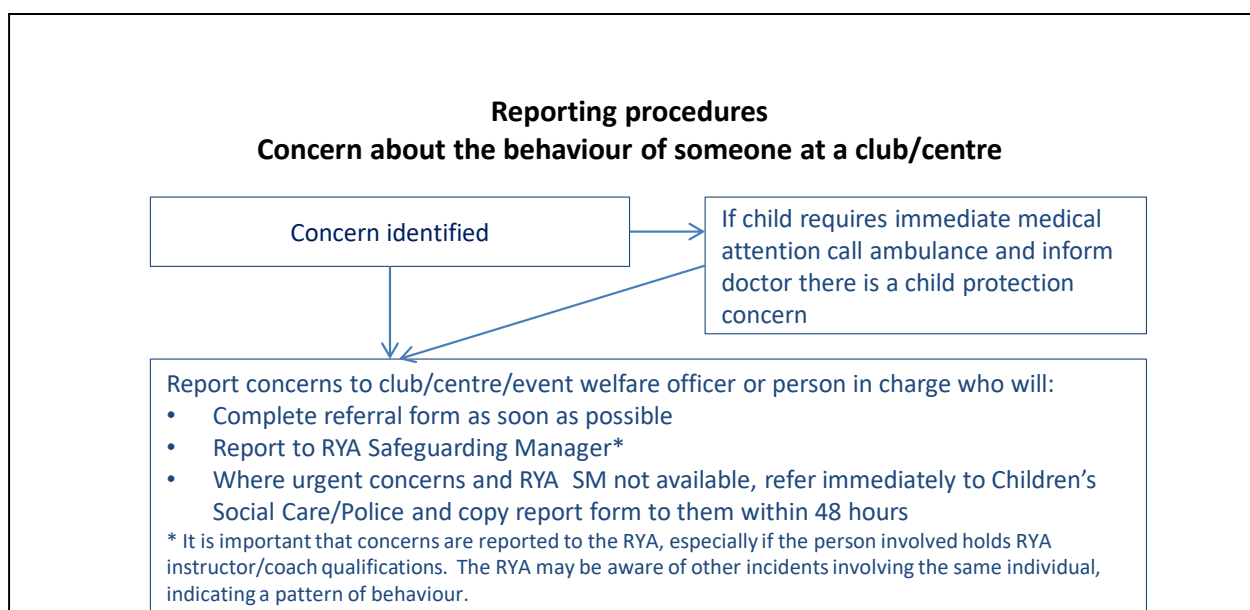
If you are uncertain what to do at any stage, contact the RYA's Safeguarding Manager on 023 8060 4104 or the NSPCC free 24-hour helpline 0808 800 5000.

Details of Children's Social Care departments and emergency duty teams are listed on local authority websites and in local phone books. If you are unable to find the appropriate contact number, call the RYA's Safeguarding Manager or, if a child is at immediate risk, the Police.

## **Flowchart 1**



**Flowchart 2**



## **Useful Contacts**

### **NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000

E-mail: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Website: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

### **Childline**

0800 1111

Website: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### **Hartlepool Child and Adult Services**

Hartlepool Duty Team (including emergency 24 hours) 01429 523416

### **Royal Yachting Association**

Katie Loucaides, Safeguarding and Equality Manager

RYA House, Ensign Way

Hamble

Southampton

SO31 4YA

Tel: 023 8060 4104

E-mail: [Katie.Loucaides@rya.org.uk](mailto:Katie.Loucaides@rya.org.uk)

Website: [www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding](http://www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding)

Community text phone (for people with a hearing impairment): 07823 559018

### **Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)**

#### **England**

Tel: 0116 234 7278

E-mail: [cpsu@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:cpsu@nspcc.org.uk)

Website: [www.thecpsu.org.uk](http://www.thecpsu.org.uk)

### **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS - formerly CRB) – RYA is Registered Body**

Website: [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service)

### **sportscoach UK – provide Safeguarding and Protecting Children training**

Website: [www.sportscoachuk.org](http://www.sportscoachuk.org)

## **Appendices**

# Appendix A

## Handout for Instructors, Coaches and Volunteers –

### Good Practice Guide

This guide only covers the essential points of good practice when working with children and young people. You should also read the organisation's Child Protection Policy and Procedures which are available for reference at all times.

- 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 someone in charge of the organisation or the child's parents
- Design training 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 B

## **Club Code of Conduct**

It is the policy of THYC that all participants, coaches, instructors, 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/class. 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 - young sailors and powerboaters**

- Listen to and accept what you are asked to do to improve your performance and keep you safe
- Respect other participants, coaches, instructors, 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/class or its members

### **Parents**

- 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 coach
- Accept officials' judgements 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/event venue



## **Coaches, Instructors, Officials and 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 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 the Clubs Welfare Officer or the person in charge of the activity.

# Appendix C

## What is child abuse?

(Based on the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2013)

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

**Physical abuse** may involve adults or other children inflicting physical harm:

- by hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating
- giving children alcohol or inappropriate drugs
- in sport situations, physical abuse might also occur when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body.

**Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve:

- conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate
- not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate
- imposing expectations which are beyond the child's age or developmental capability
- overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction
- allowing a child to see or hear the ill-treatment of another person
- serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- the exploitation or corruption of children
- emotional abuse in sport might also include situations where parents or coaches subject children to constant criticism, bullying or pressure to perform at a level that the child cannot realistically be expected to achieve.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child.

**Sexual abuse.** Sexual abuse involves an individual (male or female, or another child) forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening, to gratify their own sexual needs. The activities may involve:

- physical contact (eg. kissing, touching, masturbation, rape or oral sex)
- involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images
- encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
- grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet)
- sport situations which involve physical contact (eg. supporting or guiding children) could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. Abusive situations may also occur if adults misuse their power over young people.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- respond to a child's basic emotional needs
- neglect in a sailing situation might occur if an instructor or coach fails to ensure that children are safe, or exposes them to undue cold or risk of injury.

**Bullying** (including 'cyber bullying' by text, e-mail, social media etc) may be seen as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated or sustained over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. The bully may often be another young person. Although anyone can be the target of bullying, victims are typically shy, sensitive and perhaps anxious or insecure. Sometimes they are singled out for physical reasons – being overweight, physically small, having a disability or belonging to a different race, faith or culture.

The acronym STOP – Several Times On Purpose - can help you to identify bullying behaviour.

### **Recognising Abuse**

It is not always easy, even for the most experienced carers, to spot when a child has been abused. However, some of the more typical symptoms which should trigger your suspicions would include:

- unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries
- sexually explicit language or actions
- a sudden change in behaviour (eg. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper)
- the child describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her
- a change observed over a long period of time (eg. the child losing weight or becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt)
- a general distrust and avoidance of adults, especially those with whom a close relationship would be expected
- an unexpected reaction to normal physical contact
- difficulty in making friends or abnormal restrictions on socialising with others.

It is important to note that a child could be displaying some or all of these signs, or behaving in a way which is worrying, without this necessarily meaning that the child is being abused. Similarly, there may not be any signs, but you may just feel that something is wrong. If you have noticed a change in the child's behaviour, first talk to the parents or carers. It may be that something has happened, such as a bereavement, which has caused the child to be unhappy.

**If you are concerned**

If there are concerns about sexual abuse or violence in the home, talking to the parents or carers might put the child at greater risk. If you cannot talk to the parents/carers, consult the clubs designated Welfare Officer or the person in charge. It is this person's responsibility to make the decision to contact Children's Social Care Services or the Police. It is NOT their responsibility to decide if abuse is taking place, BUT it is their responsibility to act on your concerns.

## Appendix D RYA Instructor Code of Conduct

### **RYA Instructor Code of Conduct for RYA Instructors, Coach Assessors, Trainers and Examiners**

This document outlines the code of conduct under which all holders of RYA instructor qualifications and RYA training appointments (hereafter referred to as instructors) are required to comply. The code of conduct is intended to make clear to all participants, instructors and RYA appointment holders the high standards to which all are expected to conform. Instructors must:

- If working with people under the age of 18, read and understand the Child Protection Policy as detailed on the RYA website at [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of their sport.
- Place the wellbeing and safety of the student above the development of performance or delivery of training.
- They should follow all guidelines laid down by the RYA with regards specific training or coaching programmes.
- Hold appropriate insurance cover either individually or through the training centre in which they are working.
- Not develop inappropriate working relationships with students (especially children). Relationships must be based on mutual trust and respect and not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Encourage and guide students to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Hold relevant up to date governing body qualifications as approved by the RYA.
- Ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
- At the outset, clarify with students (and where appropriate their parents) exactly what is expected of them and what they are entitled to expect.
- Always promote the positive aspects of the sport (eg courtesy to other water users).
- Consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Not do or neglect to do anything which may bring the RYA into disrepute.
- Act with integrity in all customer and business to business dealings pertaining to RYA training.
- Not teach or purport to provide RYA courses or RYA certification outside of the framework of an RYA recognised training centre

- Notify the RYA immediately of any court imposed sanction that precludes the instructor from contact with specific user groups (for example children and vulnerable adults).
- Not carry out RYA training, examining or coaching activities whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Failure to adhere to the RYA Instructor Code of Conduct may result in the suspension or withdrawal of RYA qualifications or appointments.

## Appendix E RYA Coach Code of Ethics and Conduct

**Sports Coaching helps the development of individuals through improving their performance.**

**This is achieved by:**

1. Identifying and meeting the needs of individuals.
2. Improving performance through a progressing programme of safe, guided practice, measured performance and/or competition.
3. Creating an environment in which individuals are motivated to maintain participation and improve performance.

**Coaches should comply with the principles of good ethical practice listed below.**

1. All RYA Coaches working with sailors under the age of 18 must have read and understood the Child Protection Policy as detailed on the RYA website at [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk). If you are unable to access the website please contact the Racing Department for a copy.
2. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of their sport.
3. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of the performer above the development of performance. They should follow all guidelines laid down by the RYA and hold appropriate insurance cover.
4. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with performers based on mutual trust and respect. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward. In particular they must not abuse their position of trust to establish or pursue a sexual relationship with a sailor aged under 18, or an inappropriate relationship with any sailor.
5. Coaches must encourage and guide performers to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
6. Coaches must hold up to date and nationally recognised governing body coaching qualifications.
7. Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
8. Coaches must, at the outset, clarify with performers (and where appropriate their parents) exactly what is expected of them and what performers are entitled to expect from their coach. A contract may sometimes be appropriate.
9. Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (eg. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the performer.

10. Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of their sport (eg. fair play) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
11. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.

## Appendix F THYC Responsibilities for Away Events

THYC has a clear responsibility for supervising children involved in training and racing activities that it supports away from home. This section clarifies who is responsible for the supervision of children engaged in THYC activity and when.

The Lead Senior Instructor (SI) has overall responsibility for all supervisions at THYC organised away events. Responsibilities will be delegated by the Lead SI in accordance with the table below.

| <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Responsibility</b>  |
|---|--|
| From stated start of training/racing activities until declared completion of training/racing activities for the day.                      | Lead SI, delegated to group coaches for group work.  |
| Care of child brought ashore prematurely, from arrival at shore.  | Appointed "house" parent, unless specifically relieved of this obligation by the child's own parent.                                       |
| Child unable to participate in activities through being unwell.   |  |
| From declared completion of training/racing activities for the day until stated start time of subsequent days training/racing activities. | Appointed "house" parent at residential training/racing events, unless specifically relieved of this obligation by the child's own parent. |

Residential training/racing events are ones where THYC itself has agreed to arrange the accommodation and onshore or overnight supervision.

The THYC welfare Officer is responsible for ensuring these guidelines are adhered to and identifying and addressing any deviations from the prescribed guidelines.

It is impossible to lay down exact rules and guidelines that can be applied for every supervision situation. As such it is for the Lead SI and Instructors/Coaches for each activity to actively assess the risks and challenges of any given environment or situation and determine which rules and guidelines will be most suitable for each age and ability of child under the circumstances encountered. These guidelines are intended to inform that process and provide a framework within which to make appropriate decisions.

During a training camp or international team event the Instructors/Coaches are acting in loco parentis and are therefore expected to behave responsibly and show the same level of care as would reasonably careful and knowledgeable parents in the same circumstances.