

Peterhead Sailing Club Safeguarding Policy and Guidance for Members

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Peterhead Sailing Club to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults from physical, sexual or emotional harm. The club will take all reasonable steps to ensure that everyone participating in club activities does so in a safe environment.

We recognise our responsibility to promote the welfare of children and protect them from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying.

Everyone irrespective of sex, age, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual or gender identity or social status, has the right to be treated with respect and protected from discrimination or abuse.

A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 under the Children Act 1989.

Guidance Q&A

What has safeguarding got to do with me?

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Anyone who has a negative experience of sport particularly at a young age, is less likely to become a regular long-term participant. It's important for the future of our club and the sport as a whole that children and young people have an enjoyable experience, both on and off the water. All club members have a part to play in making that happen.

What do I need to do?

The main thing is to treat children and young people with respect – as you would expect them to behave towards you.

Follow the club's code of conduct. On the water, race in accordance with the RYA Racing Charter which encourages fair, enjoyable and safe racing for all, in compliance with the rules.

When organising activities or working in a voluntary capacity, you have a duty of care at all times for the safety and welfare of children and adults participating in any activity. Everyone involved in dinghy sailing activities at Peterhead Sailing Club must comply with club safety procedures.

What should I do if I'm concerned about a child or young person?

A concern may involve the behaviour of an adult towards a child at the club, or something that has happened to the child outside the club. Children may confide in adults they trust, in a place where they feel comfortable. An allegation may range from verbal bullying, inappropriate contact online, neglect or emotional abuse, to physical or sexual abuse.

If you are concerned about a child, it is not your responsibility to investigate further, but it is your responsibility to act on your concerns and report them.

Listen to and make a record of anything the child tells you or that you have observed. Don't ask questions, but make it clear that you will need to tell someone else in order to help them. Pass the

information to the club Welfare Officer who will know what to do next. If they are not available, you can call one of the numbers below for advice. If you believe the child is at immediate risk of harm, call the Police.

Who should I contact?

Karen Mcara (PSC Welfare Officer) welfare@peterheadsailingclub.org

NSPCC 24-hour helpline

Tel: 0808 800 5000 E-mail: help@nspcc.org.uk

ParentLine Scotland

Tel: 0800 028 2233 (9am – 9pm Mon – Fri) E-mail: parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk

RYA Safeguarding Manager

Tel: 023 8060 4104 E-mail: safeguarding@rya.org.uk

What sort of behaviours should I be concerned about?

Some behaviours should always be reported, for example:

Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games

Allowing or engaging in inappropriate touching of any form

Allowing children to use inappropriate language unchallenged, or using such language when with children

Making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun

Doing things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves.

If you see or hear something that concerns you or just doesn't feel right then please pass it on. An apparently minor incident can sometimes be an important part of a bigger picture.

If a child or young person makes an allegation then never ignore it - always act.

I'm worried that someone will get the wrong idea and think I'm doing something I shouldn't be. What can I do?

- Avoid spending any significant time working with children in isolation
- Don't take children alone in a car
- Don't take children to your home

Where any of these are unavoidable, ensure that they only happen with the full knowledge and consent of the child's parents or carers.

- Restrict communications with young people via mobile phone, e-mail or social media to group communications about club activities. If it's essential to send an individual message, copy it to the child's parent or carer.

- 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

What about changing rooms?

Peterhead Sailing Club has limited changing and showering facilities so parents should be aware that adults may also be using the changing rooms on race days. At other times it's better for adults to stay away from the changing rooms while children are using them and either wait until the changing room is free or use the accessible toilet instead.

Knocking and letting people know you are entering a changing room will avoid startling someone by walking in on them unexpectedly.

A group of children are in the changing room and it sounds like there's a riot going on. Does this mean I can't go in?

Safeguarding is also about keeping children and young people safe from each other so in this emergency situation you can and should go in. If possible, get another adult to accompany you.

I sometimes do safety boat duty. Is it OK to physically handle a child?

Yes. Keeping children safe on the water is an important part of safeguarding. In an emergency situation e.g. a child in the water or requiring first aid, you must act. Try to tell the child what you're planning to do before you do it, and make a written record of the incident at the earliest opportunity.

What about photographs?

The Club may use photos or videos for publicity and promotional purposes, both within the Club (eg newsletters, website) and externally (local newspapers). Members can inform the Membership Secretary if they do not consent to this.

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 is not permitted in any circumstances. Any concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography or the inappropriate use of images should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer.

Will I have to have a criminal record check?

You might be asked to become a member of the PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) scheme if you are involved in running activities geared towards children and young people. There is no cost to you if this is required.

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