

Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

As defined in the Children Act 1989, for the purposes of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. The policy also applies to vulnerable adults.

The committee of Ardleigh Sailing Club (ASC) subscribes to the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) view that it is important to develop a culture within the club 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 and others. Such concerns should be addressed to the Commodore. As an Affiliate Member of the RYA, ASC adheres to the policy given below:

It is the policy of the RYA to safeguard children and young people taking part in boating from physical, sexual or emotional harm. The RYA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, children participating in RYA 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.

The RYA 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.
- Support and encourage recognised training centres, affiliated clubs and class associations to implement similar policies.
- Recognise that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work with children.
- Ensure that RYA-organised training and events are run to the highest possible safety standards.
- Be prepared to review its ways of working to incorporate best practice.

We will:

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

This policy relates to all employees, contractors and volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults in the course of their RYA duties. It will be kept under periodic review. All relevant concerns, allegations, complaints and their outcome should be notified to the RYA Child Protection Co-ordinator. Contact Jackie Reid on 023 8060 4104, e-mail jackie.reid@rya.org.uk

ASC Child and Vulnerable Adult Policy Statement

In support of the principles of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, ASC provides the advice and support overleaf in addition to the policy stated above. All relevant concerns, allegations, complaints and their outcome should be notified to the ASC Child Protection Co-ordinators. Contact Wendy Brothers 07714 288947 or Fergus O'Sullivan 07824 379208

Parental responsibility and Club Liability

Although ASC has a duty of care to its members during official club activities, 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** both on and off the water, or designate another adult to take such a responsibility.

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ASC Additional Advice and Guidance:

It is acknowledged that some children may be more vulnerable to maltreatment 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.

It is important to minimize situations at the club where adults are working unobserved or could take advantage of their position of trust. Good practice protects everyone – children, volunteers and staff. To this end members should:

- Avoid spending any significant time working with children in isolation;
- Not take children alone in a car, however short the journey, always ensure at least two adults are present;
- Not take children to their home as part of the club's activities.
(where any of the above are unavoidable, the member involved must ensure that they only occur with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge of the organization or the child's parents)
- Design training programmes that are within the ability of the individual child

Members should never:

- Engage in rough physical or sexually provocative games with children;
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form;
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged or use such language themselves 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 anything of a personal nature that children can do for themselves.
(It may sometimes be necessary to do thing 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 that 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).

Changing rooms and showers:

It is preferable for non-parent/carer adult members to stay away from changing rooms when children are using them and a parent/carer is not present. However, bullying, etc. can be an issue and a balance should be struck depending on the situation. In general, it is better if one adult is not alone. If it is essential in an emergency situation for a male to enter a female changing area or *vice versa*, it is advised that another adult of the opposite gender accompanies them.

First aid and medical treatment:

In an emergency situation appropriate treatment should be administered but responsibility should be handed over to the relevant parent/carer as soon as possible.

Organising and hosting events:

When ASC hosts an open junior or youth event, it will liaise with the relevant class association to ensure that all involved in the organisation of the event are operating to similar policies. It will be made clear to all young competitors and their relevant parent/carer that there is someone responsible for their welfare who can be contacted if they have any concerns

Water-based activities:

Race officers and support boat crew must give due consideration to a child's safety and welfare when children are involved in racing or sail training, with special regard to sailing conditions, water temperature etc.

Photography:

It is important to minimise the risk of anyone using images of children in an inappropriate way. Before taking photographs or video footage, obtain written consent from the child and the parent/carers for their images to be taken and used and, when publishing images, make sure they are appropriate and that they do not include any information that might enable someone to contact the child.