

Helford River Sailing Club Child Protection Policy and Procedure

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Helford River Sailing Club

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.

The Club Welfare Officer is Martine McPherson

(Tele: 01326 378028 E-Mail martine_mcpherson11@hotmail.com)

Volunteers

All Club volunteers whose role brings them into contact with young people will be asked to provide references or to complete a self-disclosure form. The Club Welfare Officer and those instructing, coaching or supervising young people on a regular and frequent basis will also be asked to apply for an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure.

Good Practice

All members of the Club should follow the good practice guidelines (attached).

Those working with young people should be aware of the guidance on recognising abuse (see RYA Appendix A, available RYA Web site).

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 procedures set out by the RYA (see RYA Flowcharts 1 and 2, available RYA website, copy on Club notice board).

Any member of the Club failing to comply with the Child Protection policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

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 or 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 sexual suggestive comments to a child, even in fun or 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.