



HARDWAY SAILING CLUB:

2019: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – A SHORT GUIDE FOR CLUB MEMBERS.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 under the Children Act 1989, which also states that children's welfare is paramount.

What's the difference between Safeguarding and Child Protection?

The term Child Protection is normally used to describe the process of protecting an individual child identified as either suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

In boating terms, you might think of safeguarding as doing a risk assessment, following good operating procedures, checking boats, equipment, weather and a tide, making sure everyone wears a lifejacket or buoyancy aid, while child protection would be carrying out a rescue or calling the coastguard or RNLI.

What has safeguarding got to do with me?

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT 'SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY'.

All children, irrespective of sex, age, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual identity or social status, have a right to be treated with respect and protected from physical, sexual or emotional harm or neglect.

Anyone who has a negative experience of sport at a young age is less likely to become a regular long-term participant. It's important for the future of your 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.

Isn't it the responsibility of parents and the people who run the club's junior programme?

OF COURSE PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S WELFARE AND CONDUCT. THOSE WITH SPECIFIC ROLES THAT INVOLVE TEACHING, COACHING OR SUPERVISING CHILDREN SHOULD BE SUITABLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED APPROPRIATE TRAINING. BUT ALL ADULTS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB'S OVERALL DUTY OF CARE, BE AWARE OF THEIR CLUB'S SAFEGUARDING POLICY, AND KNOW WHAT TO DO IF THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A YOUNG PERSON.



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 your 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, and states that 'foul or abusive language, intimidation, aggressive behaviour or lack of respect for others and their property will not be tolerated'.

For your own protection, avoid putting yourself in a situation that could be misinterpreted:

1. Try to avoid using the changing room when there are children there, or if it's unavoidable make sure you're not the only adult in the changing room.
2. Don't give a child a lift in your car, unless it's with their parents' full knowledge and consent.
3. Think very carefully before contacting a young person via mobile phone, e-mail or social media. In general stick to group communications. If it's essential to send an individual message, where possible copy the communication to a parent and only communicate about organisational matters.

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

Of course it's fine to handle a child in an emergency situation, whether it's rescuing them from the water or giving first aid. 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.

Will I have to have a criminal record check?

You should not be asked to apply for a criminal record check unless you are involved in running activities specifically for children and young people on a regular basis. If you only do occasional support boat duty, or provide cover for general club racing, it is unlikely that you would be eligible for a check.

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, to inappropriate contact online, to 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 your club's Welfare/ Safeguarding/Child Protection Officer who will follow your club's procedures. Their details are available on the club notice board or HSC



website. If you're not sure who it is, or they are not available, you can call any Committee member immediately, in strict confidence.

If you believe the child is at immediate risk of harm, call the Police.

Hardway Sailing Club Code of Conduct:

It is the policy of Hardway Sailing Club 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. 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 power boaters

- 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 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 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/Class Welfare Officer or the person in charge of the activity.

N E BACON

Vice Commodore:

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