
SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND GUIDELINES

PART 1 – POLICY

Policy Statement

The RSYC and the RSYC Trust are committed to safeguarding, from physical, sexual, or emotional harm, neglect or bullying, children taking part in its activities. We recognise that the safety, welfare and needs of the child are paramount and that all children, irrespective of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual or gender identity or social status, have a right to protection from discrimination and 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 Tina Daniel (07956120376)

Staff and Volunteers

All Club staff and volunteers whose role brings them into regular contact with young people will be asked to provide references. The Club Welfare Officer and those regularly instructing, coaching, or supervising young people will also be asked to apply for an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure, with Barred List check if appropriate.

Good Practice

All members of the Club should follow the good practice guidelines attached and agree to abide by the Club Code of Conduct 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 A*)

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 parents/carers before taking photos or video of a child 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 or participant'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*).

PART 2 – PROCEDURES

Designated Person

Although everyone has a role to play in ensuring that children are safe, the Club Welfare Officer has specific responsibility for implementing this policy. They should inform the RYA Safeguarding Manager when they are appointed, to ensure that they receive relevant information and advice.

The Club Welfare Officer is responsible for:

- Maintaining 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 Club Welfare Officer will:

- 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, Chairman of the RSYC Trust).
- Keep the RYA informed as necessary (*see flowcharts in Section 6*).

RYA designated person

The RYA's Safeguarding and Equality Manager is Jackie Reid, tel. 023 8060 4104, e-mail safeguarding@rya.org.uk

Contact details for the Safeguarding Leads at RYA Scotland, RYA Cymru Wales and RYA Northern Ireland are shown in Section 7.

PART 3 – Good practice guidelines

Culture

It is important to develop a culture within the organisation 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.

Minimising risk

The club promotes good practice to minimise situations where adults are working unobserved or could take advantage of their position of trust. Good practice protects everyone – children, volunteers, and staff.

These common-sense guidelines should be followed by everyone:

- 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 the club's activity.
- 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 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 conducted 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.

Parental responsibility and club liability

Although the club have 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/Trust requires a parent (or designated responsible adult) to be on site, it must be made clear at what point responsibility transfers from the instructor, coach, or organiser to the parent.

Bullying

If a child alleges bullying or shows signs of being bullied, this must be investigated.

Managing challenging behaviour

Guidance for instructors and coaches on handling young people who display challenging behaviour is available as a download from the RYA website www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding, under RYA Safeguarding and Child Protection Guidelines.

First aid and medical treatment

First aid, provided by an appropriately trained and qualified person, is part the clubs normal duty of care. Consent must be obtained if medication or medical treatment is required in the absence of the parent/carer.

Organising and hosting events

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.

Communication and Images

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 www.net-aware.org.uk www.internetmatters.org

Parents

The club is 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 above for guidance.

Club websites and social media

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

- follow the RYA 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.
- provide a clear process for parents and others to report inappropriate content or online bullying and to request that content is removed.
- have a robust procedure for handling and assessing such a report or request and acting promptly to remove the offending content.

Webinars for clubs on using social media can be found in the Club Zone of the RYA website under Club Marketing: <https://www.rya.org.uk/the-club-zone/Pages/social-media.aspx>

Photography, images, and video

Publishing articles, photos, and videos in club newsletters, on websites, in local newspapers etc is an excellent way of recognising young people's achievements and of promoting the club and the sport. 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's 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 always wear identification 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.
- Care must be taken in the storage of and access to images.

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 (e.g., 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 Club 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 recording of images or video using any type of camera or photographic equipment, including cameras on smartphones and tablets and action cameras used on the water, should not be permitted in showers, or changing areas in any circumstances.

Part 4 Handling concerns, reports, or allegations

This section is primarily for the 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 the Club/Trust. 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 (e.g., 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 the Club or Trust, 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 and Equality 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 processed, stored, and destroyed in accordance with the Club/Trust Data Privacy Policy and Data Protection legislation.

Statutory Authorities

If the Club or Trust is contacted by the Police or Children's Services concerning information received or a complaint made by or about a member, volunteer, or employee, contact the RYA Safeguarding and Equality 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.

Handling the media

If there is an incident 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.

Insurance

If there is a serious allegation involving harm caused to a child either at your premises or as a result of taking part in your activities, the person in charge should consider notifying your insurers in case there is a subsequent claim against the organisation.

Historical allegations

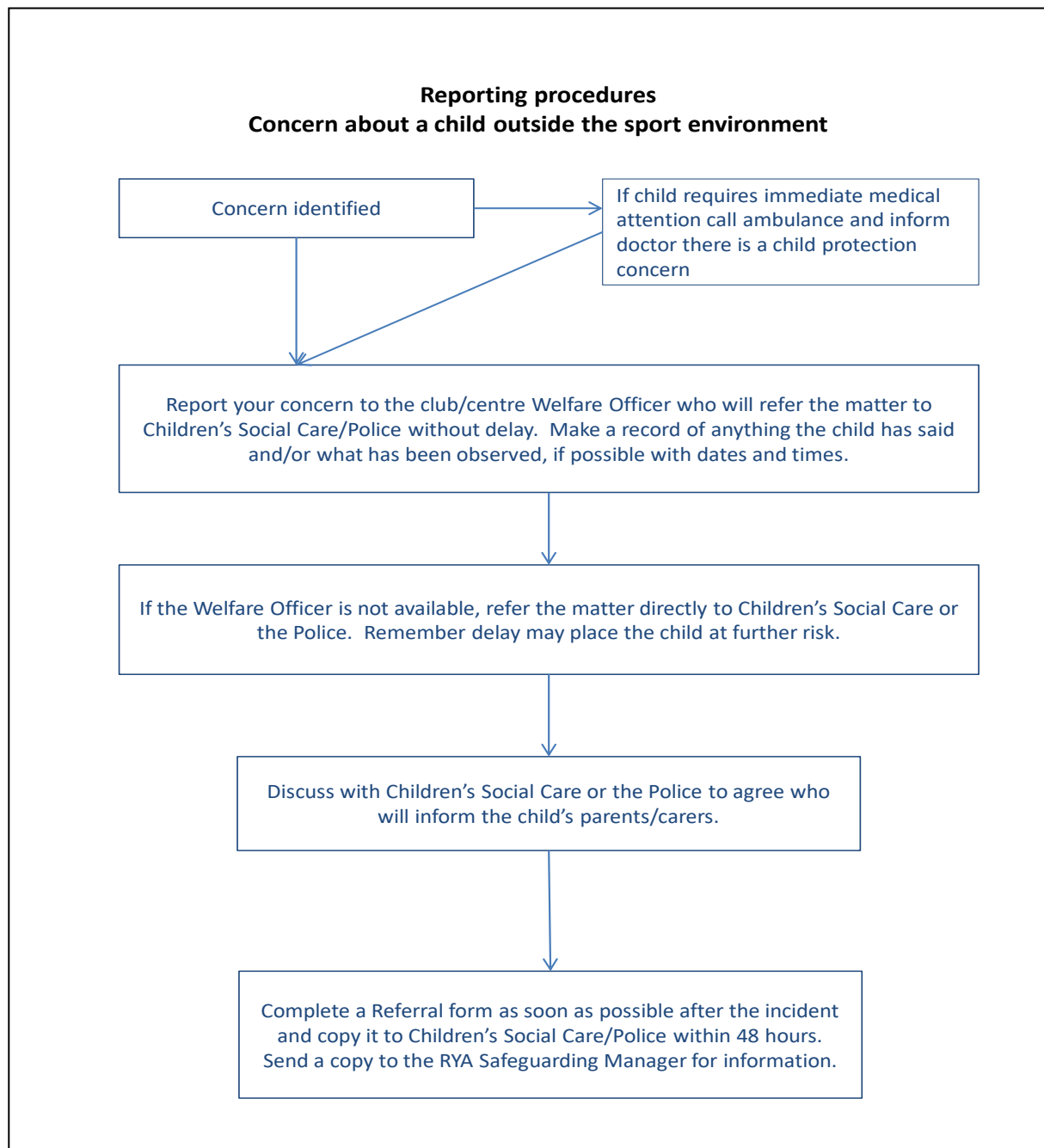
If someone raises a child protection concern relating to incidents that took place some time ago, follow the same procedure as you would for a new concern, even if the person about whom the allegation is being made is no longer active within your organisation. If the concern appears to relate to a criminal offence, encourage the individual to contact the Police on 101.

Reporting Procedures

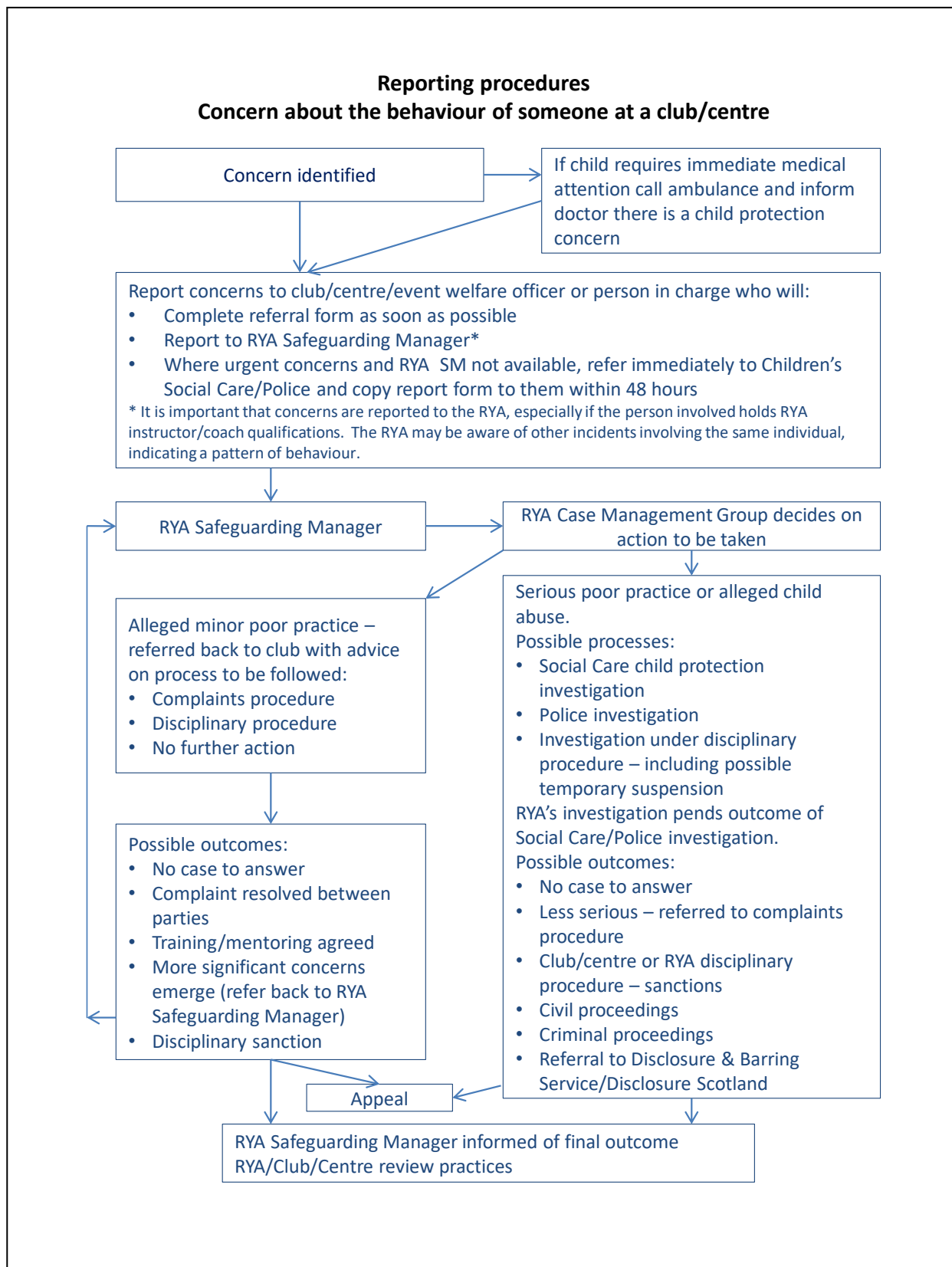
If you are uncertain what to do at any stage, contact the RYA's Safeguarding and Equality Manager on 023 8060 4104 or the NSPCC free 24-hour helpline 0808 800 5000.

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 and Equality Manager or, if a child is at immediate risk, the Police.

Flowchart 1



Flowchart 2



PART 5 – INFORMATION AND SAMPLE DOCUMENTS

Useful Contacts

Revised Jan 2019

NSPCC 24-hour free helpline

0808 800 5000

E-mail: help@nspcc.org.uk

Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

Children 1st (Scotland) free helpline

08000 28 22 33

E-mail: parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk

Text: 07860 022844

Website: www.children1st.org.uk

Childline 24-hour free helpline

0800 1111

Website: www.childline.org.uk

MIND – mental health charity

Tel: 0300 123 3393

Text: 86463

E-mail: info@mind.org.uk

Website: www.mind.org.uk

Social Care Services

Your local phone book or the website for your County Council or unitary local authority will list numbers for the Children and Families Services, generally with separate numbers for Children's Social Care and for the Emergency Duty Team (out of hours service).

Royal Yachting Association

Jackie Reid, Safeguarding and Equality Manager

RYA House, Ensign Way

Hamble

Southampton

SO31 4YA

Tel: 023 8060 4104

E-mail: safeguarding@rya.org.uk

Website: www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding

Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)

Website: www.thecpsu.org.uk

England

Tel: 0116 366 5590

E-mail: cpsu@nspcc.org.uk

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) – RYA is Registered Body

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services – RYA is Enrolled Body

Website: <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

Disclosure Scotland (for referrals)

Website: <https://www.mygov.scot/pvg-referrals/>

AccessNI – RYA is Registered Body

Website: www.nidirect.gov.uk/accessni

UK Coaching – provide Safeguarding and Protecting Children training.

Website: www.ukcoaching.org

Key Documents: 1 – Club/Trust Code of Conduct

It is the policy of RSYC and RSYC Trust 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

- 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 your Club Welfare Officer or the person in charge of the activity.

Key Document 2 – Safeguarding and Child Protection referral form.

Date and time of incident	
Name and position of person about whom report, complaint or allegation is made	
Name and age of child involved	
Name of club or organisation (if relevant)	
Nature of incident, complaint, or allegation (continue on separate page if necessary).	
Action taken by organisation (continue on separate page if necessary)	
If Police or Children's Social Care Services contacted, name, position, and telephone number of person handling case	
Name, organisation, and position of person completing form	
Contact telephone number and e-mail address	
Signature of person completing form	
Date and time form completed	
Name and position of organisation's child protection/welfare officer or person in charge (if different from above)	
Contact telephone number and e-mail address	

This form should be copied, marked 'Private and Confidential', to the RYA Safeguarding and Equality Manager, Jackie Reid, RYA House, Ensign Way, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4YA, e-mail safeguarding@rya.org.uk and to the statutory authorities (if they have been informed of the incident) within 48 hours of the incident.

Appendix A – What is child abuse?

(Based on the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2018)

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 (including via the internet). 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:

- hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, or suffocating
- giving children alcohol or inappropriate drugs
- a parent or carer fabricating the symptoms of, or deliberately inducing, illness in a child.
- 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 (e.g., 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 or watch sexual activities.
- grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet)
- sport situations which involve physical contact (e.g., supporting, or guiding children) could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. Abusive situations may also occur if adults misuse their power and position of trust 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 sport 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.

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs and wants (eg. attention, money or material possessions, alcohol, or drugs), and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation can also occur online without involving physical contact.

Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable - including the young - by seeking to: sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination eg. towards women and girls, persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society.

Bullying (not included in 'Working Together' but probably more common in a sport situation than some of the other forms of abuse described above)

Bullying (including online bullying, for example via text or social media) 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 is often 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 or physically small, being gay or lesbian, having a disability or belonging to a different race, faith, or culture.

Bullying can include:

- physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc.
- name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation, or the continual ignoring of individuals.
- posting of derogatory or abusive comments, videos, or images on social network sites
- racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, sectarianism
- sexual comments, suggestions, or behaviour
- unwanted physical contact.

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 (e.g., 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 (e.g., 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 your organisation's designated Welfare/Safeguarding 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 B – RYA Instructor Code of Conduct

Revised Feb 2014

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
- 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 (e.g., 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 C – RYA Coach Code of Ethics and Conduct

Revised Dec 2018

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 progressive 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 RYA Child Protection Policy as detailed on the RYA website at www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding . If you are unable to access the website, please contact coachingdevelopment@rya.org.uk
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 sailor above the development of performance. They should follow all guidelines laid down by the RYA, follow Operating Procedures and hold appropriate insurance cover.
4. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with sailors 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 sailors 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 sailors (and where appropriate their parents) exactly what is expected of them and what sailors are entitled to expect from their coach. A contract may sometimes be appropriate.
9. Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g., other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the sailor.
10. Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of their sport (e.g., fair play) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
11. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
12. Coaches must notify the RYA immediately of any court-imposed sanction that precludes the coach from contact with a specific user group (e.g., children and vulnerable adults).
13. Coaches must not carry out coaching activities whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or when they have received medical advice not to continue activities that are connected with their coaching (e.g., driving).
14. Coaches must not behave in a way which brings the sport into disrepute.

Failure to adhere to the RYA Coach Code of Conduct may result in the suspension or withdrawal of RYA qualifications or appointments and will be dealt with in line with the RYA Coaches' Performance Guidelines. To access these Guidelines please contact coachingdevelopment@rya.org.uk