**Scarborough and District Canoe Club - Safeguarding Adults Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to promote the safety and welfare of adults paddling within Scarborough and District Canoe Club. This is guided by the Club's moral and ethical duty to ensure every individual can enjoy Paddlesport in a safe environment. This policy will sit within the context of British Canoeing's policies and guidance, and where necessary will reference this.

Scarbrough and District Canoe Club is committed to ensuring everyone taking part in Paddlesport is able to do so protected and kept safe from abuse or neglect while they are with coaches, volunteers or committee members irrespective of: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, race, religion or beliefs, sex and sexual orientation, or gender reassignment.

Scarborough and District Canoe Club have a clear Code of Conduct and expected behaviours and all coaches, committee members, and volunteers will adhere to these and understand their duty of care to paddlers in the Club.

Scarborough and District Canoe Club is committed to ensuring that any concern reported with regards to an individual's welfare is taken seriously and followed up according the Clubs policy and British Canoeing Safeguarding policy, this policy will sit within the context of British Canoeing Safeguarding Adults Policy and will make reference where applicable.

**Duty of Care**

Scarborough and District Canoe Club are committed to ensuring that all those taking part in Club activities are able to do so, protected and kept safe from harm. All coaches and volunteers will have a clear understanding of operating within the Club's ethos, to the Club's overarching goals, Code of Conduct, and will be aware of their Duty of Care to adult paddlers within their role.

The Club will carry out regular risk assessments and evaluate policies and procedures to ensure that everybody's right to participate in Paddlesports, protected from abuse, is respected. The Club will maintain a Whistleblowing policy in-line with British Canoeing policies and carry out Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS) on all volunteers and coaches at the Club.

The Club recognises that it has a responsibility to report any concerns of abuse to adults, even if these are not suspected to be happening within the context of the Club, and will take all reports seriously and escalate them to the appropriate parties where necessary. However, the wishes of the adult of concern must be respected at all times.

Safeguarding Adults includes:

* Protecting their rights to live safely, free from abuse and neglect.
* People and organisations working together to prevent the risk of abuse or neglect.
* Making sure peoples’ wellbeing is promoted, taking their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account.

It relates to the need to protect those in vulnerable circumstances who may be at risk of abuse or neglect, due to the actions, or lack of action, of another person(s).

Any adult can be considered vulnerable at some point in their lives.

**Who needs Safeguarding?**

The term ‘Adults at Risk’ is the generally accepted term for ‘Vulnerable’ adults, and is defined in the Care Act 2014 which sets out the legal framework for the safeguarding of adults in the UK.

Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

* Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting those needs.
* Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.
* As a result of care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

There are six key principles to safeguarding adults:

1. Empowerment - People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
2. Prevention - It is important to take action before harm occurs.
3. Proportionality - The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
4. Protection - Support and representation for those in greatest need.
5. Partnership - Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities (the Club) have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
6. Accountability - Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

Scarborough and District Canoe Club recognise that there are some individuals who are more at risk of abuse and neglect, and that some people target individuals they consider more vulnerable in order to abuse/neglect them:

* Pouses, partners, or other family members.
* Neighbours
* Friends or acquaintances.
* People who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable.
* Paid staff or professionals, including carers.
* Volunteers.
* Strangers

**What to do if a disclosure of abuse is made**

* Stay calm.
* Listen carefully, allowing individuals to take as much time as needed.
* Do NOT promise to keep secret - information is likely to be needed to be shared with appropriate people.
* Do not ask leading questions, and only ask questions to clarify information.
* Offer reassurance that they have done the right thing.
* Ask the individual what they would like to happen next and if they are happy for you to share information they disclose where appropriate.
* Take detailed notes and do not delay in passing information to the Club Welfare Officer.

**When reporting a concern relating to adults**

You must remember when reporting a concern relating to an adult:

* Consent from the individual must be granted before reporting any concerns
* The decision of the adult concerned MUST be respected.

There are exceptions that can override the above points:

* Where an adult is assessed to not have the capacity to make their own decisions.
* When there is an overriding public duty to intervene due to others who may be at risk.
* Where not acting would put the person at further risk of harm.

It is not our decision if an individual lacks capacity, and we must always assume individuals have capacity unless proven otherwise. If in doubt, always report to the Welfare Officer, who will seek advice from British Canoeing.

**Who to report a concern to**

* If the adult is not at immediate risk of significant harm, report any concerns to the Club Welfare Officer unless you suspect them to be an individual involved in these concerns.
* If the adult is at immediate risk of significant harm, call the Police or North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board without delay.
* If consent is granted for you to refer the information received, contact British Canoeing Safeguarding Lead on:

Tel: 01158 968842

Email: safeguarding@britishcanoeing.org.uk

And/Or North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board at: <https://safeguardingadults.co.uk/>

* If consent is not granted but you still have concerns, contact the British Canoeing Safeguarding Lead who will be able to offer advice on what action should be taken. Wherever possible, the adult concerned should be involved.

The Club will follow British Canoeing's policy in the reporting Procedure and use the Reporting form. This can also be accessed on the British Canoeing website at:

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/G4-Recording-Concerns-Report-Form-07.01.2020.docx>

**What to do if an allegation is made against you**

If, as a coach or volunteer, you have had allegations made against you and you wish to discuss the matter with an impartial advisor you can contact the British Canoeing Safeguarding Support Officer on: 07740 820 113.

They can advise what support may be available to you.

The Club will ensure all members, volunteers, coaches, parents have access to and adhere to the Club's Code of Conduct and expected behaviours. Risk Assessments will be carried out as often as necessary to create a safe environment for everybody to enjoy Paddlesports.

Please refer to British Canoeing policies for further information and guidance at:

#### <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/guidance-resources/safeguarding/policies-guidance-and-templates>

Useful contacts:

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/guidance-resources/safeguarding/safeguarding-contacts>

Signed: Date:

Scarbrough and District Canoe Club Chairperson