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

The purpose of this policy is to promote the safety and welfare of children paddling within Scarborough and District Canoe Club. This is guided by the Club's moral and ethical duty to ensure every child 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 the home nations policies.

**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. This is particularly true in respect of children (anyone under the age of 18) where EVERYBODY has a Duty of Care in safeguarding and protection. All coaches and volunteers will have a clear understanding of operating within the Clubs ethos, to the Clubs overarching goals, Code of Conduct, and will be aware of their Duty of Care to children 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 secure. 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 child abuse, even if these are not suspected to be happening within the context of the Club, and will take all reports seriously and escalate to the appropraite parties where necessary.

**Indicators of Abuse**

There are several types of abuse that are recognised in respect of Child Protection and Safeguarding, these are:

* Physical - hurting or injuring a child e.g. by hitting, shaking, squeezing, burning or biting them. In sport this might result if the nature or intensity of training is inappropriate for the capacity of the performer. Bullying is likely to come into this category - see below.
* Sexual - Were young people are used by adults to meet their own sexual needs. It could range from sexually suggestive comments to ful intercourse and includes the use or creation of pornographic material.
* Emotional - this occurs when a child is not given love, help and encouragement and is constantly derided or ridiculed e.g. racial or sexual remarks. It can also occur if a child is over protected. Abuse can occur where a parent or coach has unrealistic expectations over what a child can achieve.
* Neglect - Failing to meet children's basic needs such as food warmth, adequate clothing, and medical attention or constantly leaving them alone. It could mean failing to ensure they are safe or exposing them to harm or injury.
* Bullying - The bully in Paddlesport can be an adult - the parent/carer who pushes too hard, the coach who adopts a win-at-all-costs philosophy or adult paddlers who attempt to assert unacceptable behaviour on paddlers to make them unwelcome or prevent them using club equipment. Bullying can also occur between young people, and any behaviour not accepted within the Club's code of conduct should always be challenged.

These abuses can share the same indicators in a child's behaviour, but may not always be the case.

Some examples of indicators of abuse are, where the child:

* Says that he/she is being abused, or another person says they believe (or actually know) that abuse is occurring.
* Has an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent.
* Behaviour changes, either over time or quite suddenly, becoming aggressive, withdrawn or unhappy.
* Appears not to trust adults, e.g. a parent or coach with whom he/she would be expected to have, or once had, a close relationship.
* Shows inappropriate sexual awareness for his/her age and sometimes behaves in a sexually explicit way.
* Becomes increasingly neglected looking in appearance or loses or puts on weight for no apparent reason.

Bear in mind that some children can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and may have added difficulties in communicating what is happening to them. Do not always expect that these abuses can only occur within the Club context, if you suspect abuse outside of the Club, it remains your responsibility to report these to the appropriate person.

**What to do if you have a concern**

If you have concerns about the welfare of a child remember: it is not your responsibility to decide whether a child is being abused, but it is your responsibility to pass any information on to the appropriate person within the Club.

Make detailed notes of what you have seen or heard, but never delay passing information to the appropriate person.

If you are a member, or the parent/carer or friend of a member of the club you should:

* Pass any concerns directly to the club Welfare Officer, unless you suspect they are an individual involved or implicated of being involved in any abuse.
* Contact British Canoeing Safeguarding Lead Officer at:

Tel: 01158 968842

Email: safeguarding@britishcanoeing.org.uk

* If you need urgent advice contact the NSPCC Child Protection 24hours helpline on: 0808 800 5000

The Clubs Welfare Officer can:

* Talk to the child's parents/carers about the concerns if it is thought that there may be an obvious explanation such as a bereavement, or study pressures such as exams.
* If urgent advice is needed, they will contact the NSPCC on the phone number above or in an emergency the Police/Social Services.

When reporting to the NSPCC/Police/Social Services, the Club Welfare Officer is also required to contact the British Canoeing Safeguarding Team to advise them of any concerns and to whom these have been reported. 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>

If a child reports abuse to you:

* Stay calm.
* Do NOT promise to keep it to yourself.
* Listen to what the child tells you, and take it seriously.
* Only ask questions to clarify what the child is telling you - do not ask for explicit details.
* Make a detailed note of what the child has told you and do not delay in passing this on to the Club Welfare Officer.

**What should you 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 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.

For further information, refer the British Canoeing Safeguarding Children Policy 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