

# **Wormit Boating Club Safeguarding Policy and Procedures**

Revised March 2022

## **Safeguarding policy**

Wormit Boating Club (WBC) is committed to safeguarding children taking part in its activities from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying. We recognise that their safety, wellbeing, welfare and needs 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 be protected from discrimination and abuse. **For the purposes of this policy, anyone under the age of 18 is considered to be a child.**

WBC takes all reasonable steps to ensure that through safe recruitment, appropriate operating procedures and training it provides a safe and fun environment for children to take part in its events and activities. All club members have a responsibility to help with this, and the club will actively promote awareness of this responsibility.

## **Safeguarding procedures**

1. All club members will be asked to help provide a safe and fun environment for children as part of the WBC Code of Conduct.
2. All club members will be asked to make themselves aware of the WBC Safeguarding policy and procedures, and to follow the 'Good Practice for all members' guidelines set out below.
3. All volunteers at club activities will be asked to follow the 'Good Practice for volunteers' guidelines set out below.
4. A proportion of serving committee members will have a current Child Welfare & Protection in Sport completion certificate from Sportscotland.
5. The Club's Child Protection Officer will have current Child Welfare & Protection in Sport and Child Protection Officer completion certificates from Sportscotland.
6. The Club's Child Protection Officer and those regularly instructing, coaching or supervising children (whether in a paid or voluntary capacity) will be asked to apply for PVG Scheme Membership and/or a Scheme Update for their activities at WBC.
7. The Club's Child Protection Officer will follow the established RYA and Sportscotland procedures for dealing with concerns raised about a child's welfare or protection.
8. The Club will seek written consent from a child's parents/carers before taking photos or videos at an activity or publishing such images.
9. A named committee member is responsible for the club's social media use and will monitor it (and reject posts as necessary) to safeguard children.
10. The RYA 'Child Safe and Fun' poster will be displayed in the clubhouse and the contact details on it kept up to date.

## **Club Child Protection Officer**

The Club's Child Protection Officer is Julia Garritt. Tel: 07484 253675. Email: [welfare@wormitboatingclub.org.uk](mailto:welfare@wormitboatingclub.org.uk)

## **Good Practice for all members**

1. Do not use inappropriate language when with a child member or participant, or make sexually suggestive comments to a child even in fun.
2. Do not engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games with a child member or participant, or allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
3. Adults should not enter the changing rooms 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.
4. Report any concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography or the inappropriate use of images to the Club's Child Protection Officer.
5. Anyone who is concerned about the welfare of a child member or participant, either within or outside of club activities, should inform the Club's Child Protection Officer immediately in strict confidence.

## **Good Practice for volunteers at club activities**

1. The Good Practice guidelines above apply.
2. If a child is having difficulty with a wetsuit or buoyancy aid, ask them to ask a friend to help rather than you, if at all possible. If you do have to help them, make sure you are in full view of others, preferably another adult.
3. Avoid spending any significant time alone with a child.
4. Do not take a child alone in a car or to your home unless it is with the full knowledge and consent of the child's parents / carers or someone in charge at the club.
5. Be aware of the RYA's guidance on safeguarding children ([Safeguarding Media and Resource Library | Safeguarding | RYA](#)).
6. Discourage parents from taking photos or videos that include a child that is not theirs. Parents and spectators should be prepared to identify themselves if asked, and state their purpose for photographing or filming. They must not distribute or put onto social media any image of a person (child or adult) who has not given their permission for this to happen.
7. Do not be the only adult in a social media group of children. If you feel that being part of the group is important for undertaking the club activity, then have the club's Child Protection Officer registered on the group too.