



# **HENLEY DRAGONS**

## **Dragon Boat Racing Team**

### **Safe Guarding Policy**

We have taken guidance from the “British Canoeing Safeguarding Children Policy, 01/07/2016”

Safeguarding describes how we protect adults, children and young people from abuse and neglect. It means proactively protecting those who may be vulnerable or at risk of abuse or neglect due to the actions, or lack of action, of another person.

British Canoeing are committed to ensuring that all those taking part in canoeing are able to do so protected and kept safe from harm. This is particularly true in respect of children.

We all have a duty with respect to safeguarding and protecting children to ensure they can participate and enjoy our sport with the highest possible standards of care. All coaches, volunteers and providers should have a clear understanding of operating within an appropriate code of ethics, aware of what their ‘duty of care’ is and how this relates to their position in providing activities and being responsible for others.

A good definition of ‘duty of care’ is: “The duty which rests upon an individual or organisation to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety of any person involved in any activity for which that individual or organisation is responsible”

In an activity such as canoeing, safety and keeping people safe is all about risk assessment and minimising the risks involved at all levels of participation. While all taking part in activity have a duty to their neighbours, in organised activity we all have a heightened duty of care and as such we should be aware that the principal risks extend to the quality of control exercised by those in charge.

Coaches, volunteers, referees, officials or administrators should all take ‘reasonable’ steps to safeguard those directly taking part in activities and at any time they may be deemed responsible for those in their charge - in vehicles, during journeys to and from the activity, during events, team training events and camps etc.

### **Good practice guidelines**

By following these guidelines you will help to protect both the children in our sport and our coaches/helpers from wrongful allegations.

☒ Avoid situations where you are alone with one child. British Canoeing acknowledges that occasionally there may be no alternative, for example, where a child falls ill and has to be taken home. We would stress, however, that one to one contact must never be allowed to occur on a regular basis. Further guidance on this is contained in British Canoeing Coaching

### **Code of Ethics.**

- If any form of physical support is required ask the paddler’s permission, explain what you are doing and why to both the child and their parents/carers.
- Where possible ask parents/carers to be responsible for children in changing rooms.

- Where possible, there should not be a time when one adult is alone in a changing room when U18's are present and vice versa.
- Where there are mixed teams/groups away from home, they should always be accompanied by an adult male and female coach/helper.
- Do not allow physically rough or sexually provocative games, or inappropriate talking or touching.

It is necessary to do things of a personal nature for a child, make sure you have another adult accompanying you. Get the consent of the parent/carer and if possible the child. Let them know what you are doing and why.

- Ensure that any claims of abuse by a child are taken seriously and that it is dealt with by people who know what to do.
- Ensure that the nature and intensity of training does not exceed the capacity of a child's immature growing body and ability.
- Follow the recognised guidelines for photography and video.
- What if you accidentally hurt a child? - You should report such an incident immediately to another club coach/official and make a written note of it. You should also inform the child's parents/carers, preferably in person.
- Is touching OK? If a coaching technique would benefit from physical contact or support then first asks the paddler's permission (e.g. would you mind if I held your shoulders to show you what I mean?). It is useful to take time to explain why and how this is used to the paddler and their parent or carer. (See British Canoeing or Home Nations Guidelines for Physical Contact). Touching can be OK and appropriate as long as it is neither intrusive nor disturbing or for the wrong reason.

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

If you have concerns about the welfare of a child Please remember the golden rule - It is not your responsibility to decide whether a child is being abused - but it is your responsibility to pass the information on to the appropriate person. Make a detailed note of what you have seen or heard but do not delay passing on the information. If you are a member, or the parent/carer or friend of a member of a Canoe Club you should:

- Tell the person appointed for child protection; this is normally the Club Welfare Officer. At an event tell the person responsible for child protection (Event Welfare Officer) or the event organiser - unless, of course you suspect them of being involved

OR

- Contact the Home Nation Child Protection Lead Officer. For England the contact is:  
Tel: 07734 453430 email: [childprotection@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:childprotection@britishcanoeing.org.uk)

OR

If you need urgent advice contact the NSPCC Child Protection 24 hours Help Line 0808 800 5000  
Further resources are available on the British Canoeing website