

# **TRURO CANOE CLUB**

## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS POLICY**

The policies and guidelines referenced within this document are those of Truro Canoe Club in accordance with British Canoeing requirements.

The principles of both the Policy and the Guidance documents are based on our moral and ethical duty to ensure children can enjoy canoeing in a safe environment and as such they reflect current best practice and the legislative framework.

The term 'child' is used throughout this document. It should be noted that 'vulnerable persons' are to be treated in the same way and this policy applies to them equally.

### **CONTENTS**

Duty Of Care – page 2

Paddlesafe – page 3

Indications Of Abuse – page 4

What To Do If You Have A Concern – page 5

What Should You Do If You Have Allegations Made Against You? – page 6

Home Nation Safeguarding Officer Contact Details – page 6

## DUTY OF CARE

Truro Canoe Club is 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.

The content of this document provides specific information in respect of safeguarding and protecting children in order that everyone can appreciate their 'duty of care' with regard to these issues, risk assess their positions and support and advise those at risk.

## **PADDLESAFE**

The welfare of children is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it comes to protecting a child from abuse. Everyone in Paddlesport can help - administrator, club official, coach, parent, friend and children themselves. Abuse can occur wherever there are children- at home, at school, in the park, at the club. Sadly, there are some people who will seek to be where children are simply in order to abuse them. We believe that everyone in Paddlesport has a moral responsibility and therefore a part to play in looking after the children with whom we are working.

Whilst the welfare of children is our first consideration in establishing child protection policies and procedures, we have also taken account of the needs of coaches, particularly where falsely accused. A feature of this policy on Safeguarding Children is to ensure that individuals have access to confidential advice, guidance and support path, provided separately to that provided for those with concerns that abuse may be taking place.

These safeguarding and child protection procedures stem from the following principles:

- The child's or vulnerable person's welfare is paramount.
- Anyone under the age of 18 is classed as a child.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial origin, religious belief, marital status and sexual identity have a right to be protected from abuse.
- To respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of young people in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Coaches, clubs and centres need to be provided with advice to raise awareness of best practice and guidance and support should they become involved in an abuse situation.

Truro Canoe Club recognises that some children may have additional vulnerabilities or are disadvantaged by their experiences. It is important for all those that work with children are vigilant in creating a safe culture and are aware of those who may have additional vulnerabilities.

Truro Canoe Club understands that if these procedures are to be successful in helping to protect children, everyone in the club needs to see them. All club members are therefore requested to read, understand and observe this policy.

## **INDICATIONS OF ABUSE**

There are physical and behavioural signs that might raise your concern about the welfare or safety of a child. They are only indicators - not confirmation. Some examples are:

Where the child or vulnerable person,

- Says that she or he 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 she/ he 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.

Some children can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and may have added difficulties in communicating what is happening to them.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN

If you have concerns about the welfare of a child or vulnerable person 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 Truro Canoe Club you should:

- Tell the Truro Canoe 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:  
mobile: 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

The Truro Canoe Club Welfare Officer will:

- Talk to the child's parents/carers about the concerns if there may be an obvious explanation such as a bereavement or pressure from their studies/exams.
- Contact the NSPCC Child Protection 24 hours Help Line if urgent advice is required. Alternatively contact local Social Services or, in an emergency, the Police.
- If away from home with paddlers, at a training camp, perhaps, or a national/regional competition - tell the team manager or the designated welfare officer.
- If working with a school - inform the head teacher.
- If involved in a paddle scheme such as local authority canoeing lessons - refer to their Child Protection procedures.

Please note, that having reported concerns to the NSPCC, police or social services the Home Nation Safeguarding Officer should be contacted to advise them of the concern and to whom it has been reported. A standard reporting form for this purpose is available from the Home Nation website.

If a child says that he or she is being abused:

- Stay calm.
- Do not promise to keep it to yourself.
- Listen to what the child says and take it seriously.

- Only ask questions if clarification is needed of what the child is saying – do not ask about explicit details.
- Make a detailed note of what the child has said; do not delay passing on the information.

## **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAVE ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST YOU?**

If you have had allegations made against you as a coach or volunteer and you wish to discuss the matter with an impartial adviser you could contact the Home Nation Safeguarding Officer:

- mobile 07734 453430
  - email: [childprotection@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:childprotection@britishcanoeing.org.uk)
- who will advise you of what support may be available.

## **HOME NATION SAFEGUARDING OFFICER CONTACT DETAILS**

Canoe England:

- mobile: 07734 453430
- email: [childprotection@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:childprotection@britishcanoeing.org.uk)