

### ***Weir wood Sailing Club Safeguarding Policy***

#### **Policy Statement**

Weir wood Sailing Club is committed to safeguarding children taking part in its activities from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying. We recognise that the safety, welfare and needs of the child 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 protection from discrimination and abuse.

For the purposes of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. All members of the Club should be aware of the policy.

#### **Club Safeguarding Officer**

The safeguarding officer is:

Carole Taylor      [safeguarding@wwsc.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@wwsc.org.uk)

#### **Parental Responsibilities**

Parents play an essential part in their children's participation, but occasionally their desire to see their child achieve success can put the child under too much pressure or give rise to friction between families or interference in coaching.

Although Weir wood sailing club has a duty of care to its members, and particularly to children who cannot take full responsibility for their own safety, parents must be responsible for their children's welfare and behaviour, or designate another adult to take that responsibility, outside formal club-organised activities.

#### **Club Organised Youth Activities**

Weir wood sailing club seeks to develop a culture where both children and adults feel able to raise concerns, knowing that they will be taken seriously, treated confidentially and will not make the situation worse for themselves or others. See "Safeguarding at Club Organised Youth Activities" for guidance for those running or involved in the provision of club activities and "Parents' Guide to Youth Sailing" for guidance for parents and guardians.

#### **Volunteers**

All club members or volunteers whose role brings them into contact with young people will be subject to an appropriate level of scrutiny. The level of checking carried out should be proportionate to the role and the level of risk involved and in line with relevant statutory requirements (see "Recruitment and training of adults working with children". The safeguarding officer and those regularly instructing, coaching or supervising young people will also be asked to apply for an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure, with Barred List check if appropriate.

#### **Good Practice**

It is the policy of Weir Wood Sailing club that all members, coaches, instructors, officials, parents and volunteers show respect and understanding for each other, treat everyone equally within the context of the sport and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club/class. The aim is for all participants to enjoy their sport and to improve performance.

***Abusive language, swearing, intimidation, aggressive behaviour or lack of respect for others and their property will not be tolerated.***

Those working or volunteering with young people should be aware of the guidance on recognising abuse (see “What is child abuse”).

Parents should be aware that adult club members may be in the changing rooms. Adults are advised if at all possible to avoid entering the showers and changing rooms at times when unaccompanied children are changing. If this is unavoidable because adults are sailing at the same times, it is better if one adult is not alone.

Bullying can be an issue in changing rooms and shower, parents are responsible for their children while in the changing rooms. If it is essential, in an emergency situation, for a male to enter a female changing area or vice versa, it is advised that they are accompanied by another adult of the opposite sex.

### **Concerns**

Anyone who is concerned about a young member’s or participant’s welfare, either outside the sport or within the club, should inform the club safeguarding officer immediately, in strict confidence. For details of the clubs procedure, see “Handling concerns, reports or allegations”

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<sup>i</sup> The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as everyone under 18.