

# **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Guidelines**

RS Feva Class Association

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Version 3

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# 1 Introduction

All parents, adult assistants and employees/sub-contractors/coaches will be aware that there is a legal responsibility to protect children in its care.

The RS Feva Class Association (UK) has a child welfare and procedures policy because it seeks to:

- Safeguard children from physical or emotional harm, both on and off the water.
- Assure parents that their children are safe.
- To raise awareness amongst our members, volunteers or employees so that they know what to do if they are concerned about a child, whether the concern relates to: the child's welfare when they are attending events/training or something happening outside the sport that a child discloses to someone they trust.
- To protect coaches, instructors, officials or volunteers by giving them some practical guidelines to avoid placing themselves in situations where they are open to allegations.
- To demonstrate that RS Feva Class Association (UK) takes its obligations seriously and has undertaken this policy in consultation with the RYA.
- To provide a safe environment.

## Definition of a child

The Children Act 1989 defined any person under the age of 18 as a 'child'. In this document and in day to day communications the terms 'children' and 'young people' are both used, recognising that older teenagers may prefer not to be referred to as 'children' although they are still children in the eyes of the law.

## **PART 1 – POLICY**

### **2 Policy Statements**

#### **RS Feva (UK) Safeguarding Policy and Procedures**

##### **Policy Statement**

RS Feva (UK) is committed to safeguarding, from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying, children taking part in its activities. 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 Association should be aware of the policy.

##### **Class Welfare Officer**

The Class Welfare Officer is: Laurie Callaghan contactable via [welfare@rsfeva.org.uk](mailto:welfare@rsfeva.org.uk) or 0770 4103164

##### **Staff and Volunteers**

All Class staff and volunteers whose role brings them into regular contact with young people will be asked to provide references. The Class Welfare 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**

All members of the Class should follow the good practice guidelines attached and agree to abide by the Class Code of Conduct and the RYA Racing Charter contained in the Racing Rules of Sailing. Those working or volunteering with young people should be aware of the guidance on recognising abuse.

Adults are requested not to enter the showers and changing rooms at times 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.

The Class will seek written consent from parents/carers before taking photos or video of a child at an event or training session or publishing such images. Parents and spectators should be prepared to identify themselves if requested and state their purpose for photography/filming. If the Class publishes images of children, no identifying information other than names will be included. Any concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography or the inappropriate use of images should be reported to the Class Welfare Officer.

##### **Concerns**

Anyone who is concerned about a young member's or participant's welfare, either outside the sport or within the Class, should inform the Class Welfare Officer immediately, in strict confidence. The Class Welfare Officer will follow the attached procedures.

## PART 2 PROCEDURES

### 3 Designated Person

Although everyone has a role to play in ensuring that children are safe, it is recommended that a designated individual has specific responsibility for implementing policy, and acts as the point of contact to receive information and advice from the RYA.

In the RS Feva (UK) the designated person is the Class Welfare Officer.

The role description includes the following key areas:

- Maintaining up-to-date policy and procedures, compatible with the RYA's.
- Ensuring that relevant staff and/or volunteers are aware of and follow the procedures, including implementing safe recruitment procedures.
- Advising the management committee on safeguarding and child protection issues.
- Maintaining contact details for local Children's Services and Police.

If there is a concern, the Class Welfare Officer would:

- Be the first point of contact for any concerns or allegations, from children or adults, ensuring that confidentiality is maintained in all cases.
- Decide on the appropriate action to be taken, in line with the organisation's procedures and in conjunction with the person in charge (Commodore, Principal etc.).
- Keep the RYA informed as necessary.

Everyone in the organisation should know who the Welfare Officer is and how to contact them.

#### **RS Feva (UK) designated person**

UK RS Feva Class Association Class Welfare Officer is Laurie Callaghan,  
tel 07905609330 , email [welfare@rsfeva.org.uk](mailto:welfare@rsfeva.org.uk)

#### **RYA designated person**

The RYA's safeguarding and quality manager is Katie Loucaides, tel. 023 8060 4104,  
e-mail [safeguarding@rya.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rya.org.uk)

If Katie Loucaides is unavailable and the matter is urgent, contact:

England - Andrew Gates, RYA Class Support Advisor, tel. 023 8060 4199, e-mail  
[jackie.bennetts@rya.org.uk](mailto:jackie.bennetts@rya.org.uk)

Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland - the relevant Safeguarding Lead (see Section 7 for details).

## 4 Recruitment and training

All applications, whether for paid or voluntary work, will be subject to an appropriate level of scrutiny. The level of checking carried out will be proportionate to the role and the level of risk involved and in line with relevant statutory requirements. The risk is higher if the person will be in regular contact with the same child or children, in sole charge of children with no parents or other adults present, and/or in a role involving authority and trust, such as an instructor or coach.

RS Feva (UK) agrees the following policy and to apply it fairly and consistently:

- **who to check**
  - paid staff and/or volunteers (if they have the same level of responsibility and contact, they will be treated in the same way whether they are paid or not)
  - new applicants
  - those with specific responsibilities (e.g. instructor, child welfare officer, coach) or anyone who regularly helps with junior/youth activity
- the **level of check** conducted for each category will vary according to role
  - references
  - self-declaration
  - Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure (and Barred List check if appropriate) or membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme (Scotland only), if the post is eligible.

### **It is a criminal offence under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**

- for a Barred individual to work in Regulated Activity/Regulated Work
- for an organisation to knowingly allow someone who has been Barred to work in Regulated Activity/Regulated Work, and
- for an organisation to fail to make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service/Disclosure Scotland if they have dismissed someone from Regulated Activity/Regulated Work for harming a child or vulnerable adult or placing them at risk of harm, or would have dismissed them if they had not resigned.

### **Are they competent?**

RS Feva (UK) will:

- provide the applicant with a clear job or role description so that they understand what the work involves
- draw up a 'person specification' listing the key qualifications, skills, experience and qualities you're looking for
- check that the applicant is competent for the role, e.g. they hold an appropriate and valid RYA instructor certificate, coach qualification or powerboat/safety boat certificate if required
- provide an induction, training, mentoring or supervision to cover any areas where they may lack experience or confidence and familiarise them with your organisation's operating procedures.

### **Are they safe?**

RS Feva (UK) will:

- ask them to provide information about their past career or relevant experience
- ask their reasons for leaving earlier posts, or moving area, and make sure there are no unexplained gaps in their career history
- explore their experience of and attitude towards working with children
- take up references, at least one of which should be from someone who has first-hand knowledge of their previous work with children, and make the nature of the work clear to the referees.

If the role involves regularly training or supervising children or is a position of trust or authority over children's welfare and eligible for a Criminal Records check, RS Feva (UK) will:

- First ask the applicant to complete a self-declaration form.
- Before confirming their appointment, ask the applicant to apply for an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure (with Barred List check if appropriate) or Protection of Vulnerable Groups scheme membership.

### **Confidentiality and data storage**

All personal information, including Disclosure information, should be treated as confidential, stored securely and only shared with those who need to see it in the course of their duties or to protect children, in accordance with the DBS/PVG/AccessNI Codes of Conduct and your organisation's Data Privacy Policy.

### **Safeguarding Training**

RS Feva (UK) will ensure that all staff or volunteers working with children have undertaken training appropriate to their role. This may be through formal training, an online course, induction and mentoring and/or continuing professional development.

## 5 Good practice guidelines

### Managing challenging behaviour

Guidance for instructors and coaches on handling young people who display challenging behaviour is available as a download from the RYA website [www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding](http://www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding), under RYA Safeguarding and Child Protection Guidelines.

### Responsibilities of staff and volunteers

Staff and volunteers will be given clear roles and responsibilities, made aware of the safeguarding policy and procedures and issued with guidelines on:

- following [good practice](#) and
- recognising signs of abuse

RYA Coaches and Instructors are expected to comply with the RYA [Codes and Conduct](#).

### Parental responsibility and Class liability

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. The RS Feva (UK) class has adopted a [Code of Conduct](#) that should be signed up to by everyone involved, whether they are participants, parents, staff or volunteers, so that everyone is aware of their responsibilities towards each other and appropriate action can be taken if anyone's behaviour fails to meet the expectations set out in the Code.

Although RS Feva (UK) have a duty of care to their members, and particularly to young people 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 Class-organised activities.

When children are attending an organised training or coaching session or activity, the organisers have a duty of care for their safety and welfare at all times. If the Class requires a parent (or designated responsible adult) to be on site, it will be made clear at what point responsibility transfers from the instructor, coach or organiser to the parent.

### Changing rooms and showers

Shower areas should, where possible, be designed to allow both adults and children to shower and dress in reasonable privacy. As a minimum there should be separate male and female changing rooms and, if relevant, unisex disabled changing.

It is preferable for adults to stay away from the changing rooms while there are children there. If this is unavoidable because adults are sailing at the same times, or the site is

open to the public, it is better if one adult is not alone. Parents should be made aware that adult Class members and/or members of the public may be in the changing rooms.

Bullying can be an issue in changing rooms and showers.

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.

### **First aid and medical treatment**

First aid, provided by an appropriately trained and qualified person, is part of the RS Feva's normal duty of care. Consent will be obtained if medication or medical treatment is required in the absence of the parent/carer.

### **Organising and hosting events**

It will be made clear to all young competitors and their parents that there is someone responsible for their welfare who can be contacted if they have any concerns.

### **Away events**

It is essential that those accompanying young people to away events or training camps, and the competitors themselves, have a clear understanding of their responsibilities and the conduct expected of them.

Please see the [Sailor Supervision Guidelines](#) for further information.

### **Communication and Images**

The world of the internet, social media and apps is constantly and rapidly evolving and it is hard to keep up to date, but it is important for parents and for anyone working with young people to develop some understanding of how they use technology, the risks involved and how to keep them safe. Suggested sources of information, mainly intended for parents but useful for anyone, are:

[www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware)      [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)  
[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)      [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

### **Parents**

RS Feva (UK) is responsible for the content published on their website, but parents must accept responsibility for their children's access to and use of computers, tablets and smartphones. See the links above for guidance.

### **Coaches and Instructors**

When working with children and young people you are advised to:

- where possible have a business phone and a personal phone

- only contact sailors on your business phone or using your organisation's text system)
- avoid using over-familiar language and try to copy in the child's parent carer
- only communicate regarding organisational matters, not for social or personal contact.

When using social media, it is recommended that you:

- have a personal and a professional page for your social media
- do not allow young sailors to follow or be friends with your personal account
- set your privacy settings as high as possible on your personal account
- challenge the way that young sailors post or comment to you or others on social media if it is inappropriate
- educate young sailors about the boundaries between them and their Coach or Instructor.

Coaches on the RYA's Youth and junior squad programmes are expected to comply with the [RYA Youth Racing Communications Policy](#).

### **Children and young people**

Children and young people use modern technology as a matter of course, but they don't always understand the risks involved and their parents are not always fully aware of their children's risky behaviour. Online communication and texting can often be used as a means of bullying. 'Cyberbullying' should be treated in the same way as any other form of bullying. [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) and [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) provide guidance and support for children and young people in different age groups, as well as for parents and carers, on matters such as online bullying, sharing images and 'sexting'.

### **Photography, images and video**

Publishing articles, photos and videos in newsletters, on websites, in local newspapers etc. is an excellent way of recognising young people's achievements and of promoting RS Feva (UK) and the sport as a whole. However it is important to minimise the risk of anyone using images of children in an inappropriate way. Digital technology makes it easy to take, store, send, manipulate and publish images.

There are two key principles to bear in mind:

**Before taking photos or video, obtain written consent from the child parents/carers for their images to be taken and used**

**When publishing images, make sure they are appropriate and that you do not include any information that might enable someone to contact the child**

The use of cameras or smart phones/tablets in changing areas should not be permitted in any circumstances. Such use by young people should be regarded as a form of bullying. Please see the relevant policy on photography attached.

## 6 Handling concerns, reports or allegations

**This section is primarily for the designated Welfare Officer, but everyone should be aware of the procedures to follow if there are concerns (see flowcharts below).**

A complaint, concern or allegation may come from a number of sources: the child, their parents, someone else within your organisation. It may involve the behaviour of one of your volunteers or employees, or something that has happened to the child outside the sport, perhaps at home or at school. Children may confide in adults they trust, in a place where they feel at ease.

An allegation may range from mild verbal bullying to physical or sexual abuse. If you are concerned that a child may be being abused, it is NOT your responsibility to investigate further BUT it is your responsibility to act on your concerns and report them to the appropriate statutory authorities. For guidance on recognising abuse, see Appendix A.

### Handling an allegation from a child

#### Always:

- stay calm – ensure that the child is safe and feels safe
- show and tell the child that you are taking what he/she says seriously
- reassure the child and stress that he/she is not to blame
- be careful about physical contact, it may not be what the child wants
- be honest, explain that you will have to tell someone else to help stop the alleged abuse
- make a record of what the child has said as soon as possible after the event, using the child's own words
- follow your organisation's child protection procedures.

#### Never:

- rush into actions that may be inappropriate
- make promises you cannot keep (e.g. you won't tell anyone)
- ask leading questions see 'Recording and handling information' below
- take sole responsibility – consult someone else (ideally the designated Child Protection/Welfare Officer or the person in charge or someone you can trust) so that you can begin to protect the child and gain support for yourself.

You may be upset about what the child has said or you may worry about the consequences of your actions. Sometimes people worry about children being removed from their families as a result of abuse, but in reality this rarely happens. However, one thing is certain – you cannot ignore it.

### Recording and handling information

If you suspect that a child may have been the subject of any form of physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect, the allegation must be referred as soon as possible to Children's Social Care or the Police who have trained experts to handle such cases. Do not start asking leading questions which may jeopardise any formal investigation.

A leading question is where you suggest an answer or provide options that only need a 'yes' or 'no' answer, instead of allowing the child to explain things in their own words. An example would be asking 'did it hit you?' instead of 'how did you get that bruise?'. Use open questions such as 'what happened next?'. Only ask questions to confirm that you need to refer the matter to someone else. Listen to and keep a record of anything the child tells you or that you have observed and pass the information on to the statutory authorities (see Referral Form).

**All information must be treated as confidential and only shared with those who need to know.** If the allegation or suspicion concerns someone within the organisation, only the child's parents/carers, the person in charge of the organisation (unless they are the subject of the allegation), the relevant authorities and the RYA Safeguarding and Equality Manager should be informed. If the alleged abuse took place outside the sport, the Police or Children's Social Care will decide who else needs to be informed, including the child's parents/carers. It should not be discussed by anyone within the organisation other than the person who received or initiated the allegation and, if different, the person in charge.

Confidential information must be processed, stored and destroyed in accordance with the Data Privacy Policy and Data Protection legislation.

## **Procedures**

It is essential to have clear and agreed procedures to follow. These include:

- procedures to be followed by anyone concerned about a child's welfare, either outside the sport or within your organisation (*see flowcharts below*)
- a disciplinary procedure (which may be included in a staff handbook or contract, depending on the nature of the organisation) setting out the process to be followed if an allegation or complaint is made about an employee
- a procedure for handling a complaint about a member

The RYA's information sheet on the Conduct of Members includes the key elements of a fair hearing. It can be found on the website in the Class Zone (you will need your Class's or class association's login) under Your People, Members, Expulsion of Members or click on this link: <http://www.rya.org.uk/Class-zone/your-people/members/Pages/expulsion-of-members.aspx>.

## **Statutory Authorities**

If contacted by the Police or Children's Services concerning information received or a complaint made by or about a member, volunteer or employee, you are advised to contact the RYA Safeguarding and Equality Manager as soon as possible for guidance and support. Co-operate fully with official requests for factual information, but do not express any personal opinions on the person's conduct.

## **Handling the media**

If there is an incident at your premises which attracts media interest, or if you are contacted by the media with an allegation concerning one of your members or employees, do not give any response until you have had an opportunity to check the facts and seek advice. You may wish to contact the RYA's Communications department on 023 8060 4215 for professional advice on handling the media.

## **Historical allegations**

If someone raises a child protection concern relating to incidents that took place some time ago, follow the same procedure as you would for a new concern, even if the person about whom the allegation is being made is no longer active within your organisation. If the concern appears to relate to a criminal offence, encourage the individual to contact the Police on 101.

## **Reference to the Disclosure and Barring Service or Disclosure Scotland**

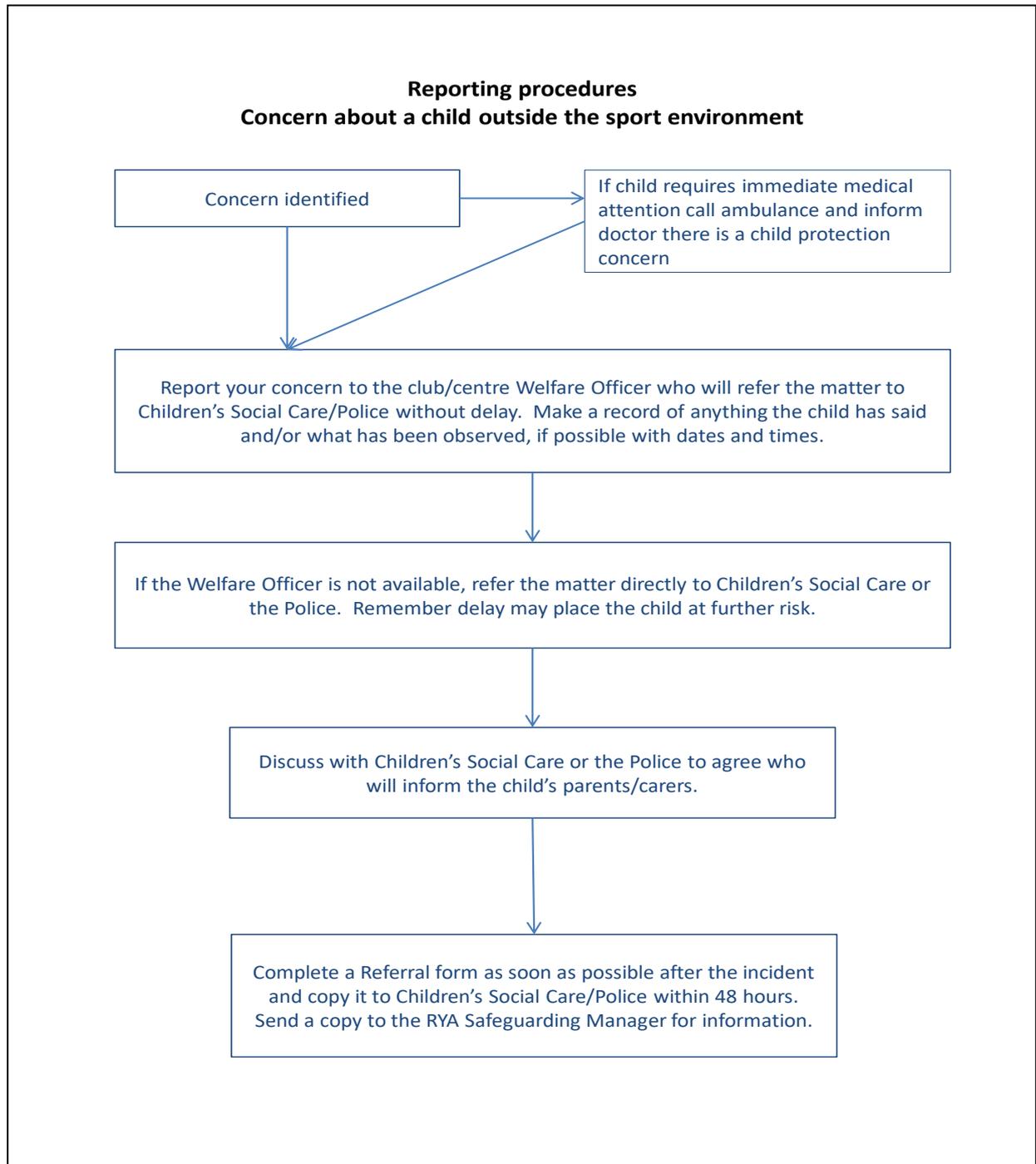
The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) maintains the lists of people barred from working with children or with vulnerable adults in England and Wales and in Northern Ireland. Disclosure Scotland fulfils this function in Scotland. If your organisation permanently dismisses or removes someone from a role involving Regulated Activity/Work, or would have dismissed them if they had not resigned, because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult or placed them at risk of harm, you have a duty to refer them to the DBS or Disclosure Scotland, as appropriate. *It is a criminal offence not to make such a referral.* For guidance on the grounds and process for making a referral, see the relevant website or contact the RYA Safeguarding and Equality Manager.

## Reporting Procedures

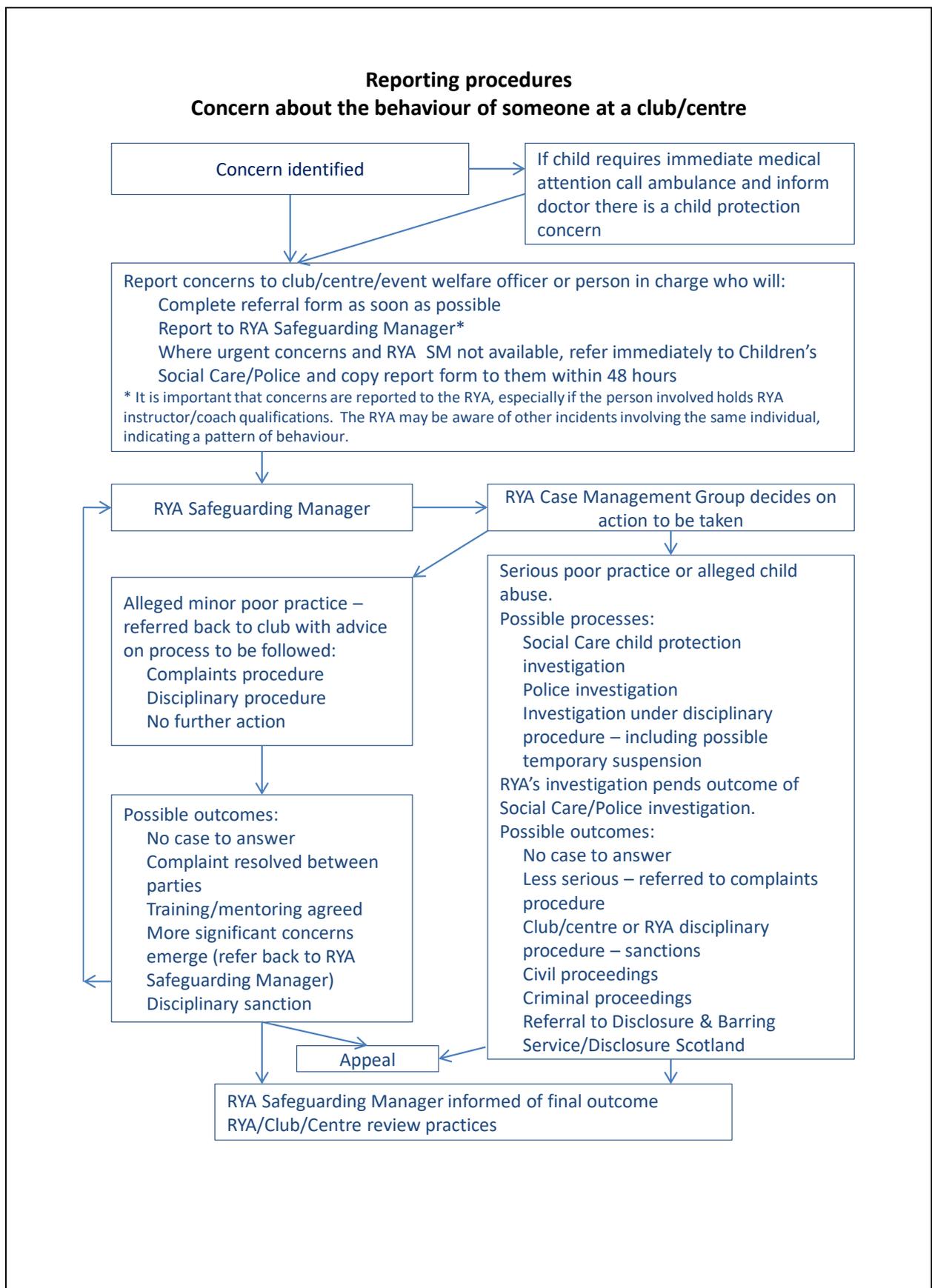
If you are uncertain what to do at any stage, contact the RYA's Safeguarding and Equality Manager on 023 8060 4104 or the NSPCC free 24-hour helpline 0808 800 5000.

Details of Children's Social Care departments and emergency duty teams are listed on local authority websites and in local phone books. If you are unable to find the appropriate contact number, call the RYA's Safeguarding and Equality Manager or, if a child is at immediate risk, the Police.

### Flowchart 1



## Flowchart 2



## **PART 3 INFORMATION AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

### **7 Useful Contacts**

#### **NSPCC 24 hour free helpline**

0808 800 5000

E-mail: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Website: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

#### **Children 1<sup>st</sup> (Scotland) free helpline**

08000 28 22 33

E-mail: [parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk](mailto:parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk)

Text: 07860 022844

Website: [www.children1st.org.uk](http://www.children1st.org.uk)

#### **Childline 24 hour free helpline**

0800 1111

Website: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

#### **Social Care Services**

Your local phone book or the website for your County Council or unitary local authority will list numbers for the Children and Families Services, generally with separate numbers for Children's Social Care and for the Emergency Duty Team (out of hours service).

#### **Royal Yachting Association**

Katie Loucaides, Safeguarding and Equality Manager

RYA House, Ensign Way

Hamble

Southampton

SO31 4YA

Tel: 023 8060 4104

E-mail: [safeguarding@rya.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rya.org.uk)

Website: [www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding](http://www.rya.org.uk/go/safeguarding)

#### **RYA Cymru Wales**

Gerwyn Owen, Chief Executive Officer

Tel: 01248 670814 Mob: 07918 716344

E-mail: [gerwyn.owen@ryacymruwales.org.uk](mailto:gerwyn.owen@ryacymruwales.org.uk)

Website: [www.ryacymruwales.org.uk](http://www.ryacymruwales.org.uk)

#### **RYA Scotland**

Liza Linton, Development Manager

Tel: 0131 317 7388 Mob: 07770 604234

E-mail: [liza.linton@ryascotland.org.uk](mailto:liza.linton@ryascotland.org.uk)

Website: [www.ryascotland.org.uk](http://www.ryascotland.org.uk)

#### **RYA Northern Ireland**

Gayle Logan, Safeguarding Officer

Tel: 028 9182 7154

E-mail: [gayle.logan@rya.org.uk](mailto:gayle.logan@rya.org.uk)

Website: [www.ryani.org.uk](http://www.ryani.org.uk)

## **Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU)**

### **England**

Tel: 0116 366 5590

E-mail: [cpsu@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:cpsu@nspcc.org.uk)

Website: [www.thecpsu.org.uk](http://www.thecpsu.org.uk)

### **Wales**

Tel: 0116 366 5590

E-mail: [cpsuwales@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:cpsuwales@nspcc.org.uk)

### **Northern Ireland**

Tel: 028 9035 1135

E-mail: [cpsu@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:cpsu@nspcc.org.uk)

### **Scotland (Children 1<sup>st</sup> Safeguarding in Sport)**

Tel: 0141 419 1156

E-mail: [safeguardingsport@children1st.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingsport@children1st.org.uk)

Website: [www.safeguardingsport.org.uk](http://www.safeguardingsport.org.uk)

### **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS - formerly CRB) RYA is Registered Body**

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>

### **Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services RYA is Enrolled Body**

Website: [www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services](http://www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services)

### **Disclosure Scotland (for referrals)**

Website: <https://www.mygov.scot/pvg-referrals/>

### **AccessNI RYA is Registered Body**

Website: [www.nidirect.gov.uk/accessni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/accessni)

### **UK Coaching provide Safeguarding and Protecting Children training**

Website: [www.ukcoaching.org](http://www.ukcoaching.org)

## RS Feva (UK) Good Practice Guides:

Good Practice Guide for Instructors, Coaches and Volunteers	 RS Feva Class Association Code of C
Class Association Code of Conduct	 RS Feva Class Association Code of C
Safeguarding and Child Protection referral form	 RS Feva Safeguarding referral
RS Feva (UK) Association Photography Policy	 <b>RS FEVA</b> <b>Photography Policy 3i</b>

## Appendix A What is child abuse?

Revised Feb 2018

(Based on the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children')

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (including via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

**Physical abuse** may involve adults or other children inflicting physical harm:

- by hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating
- giving children alcohol or inappropriate drugs
- in sport situations, physical abuse might also occur when the nature and intensity of training exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body.

**Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may include

- conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate
- not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate
- imposing expectations which are beyond the child's age or developmental capability
- overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction
- allowing a child to see or hear the ill-treatment of another person
- serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- the exploitation or corruption of children
- emotional abuse in sport might also include situations where parents or coaches subject children to constant criticism, bullying or pressure to perform at a level that the child cannot realistically be expected to achieve.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child.

**Sexual abuse.** Sexual abuse involves an individual (male or female, or another child) forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening, to gratify their own sexual needs. The activities may involve:

- physical contact (e.g. kissing, touching, masturbation, rape or oral sex)
- involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images
- encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or watch sexual activities
- grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet)
- sport situations which involve physical contact (e.g. supporting or guiding children) could potentially create situations where sexual abuse may go unnoticed. Abusive situations may also occur if adults misuse their power over young people.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may include a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- respond to a child's basic emotional needs

- neglect in a sport situation might occur if an instructor or coach fails to ensure that children are safe, or exposes them to undue cold or risk of injury.

**Child sexual exploitation** is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs and wants (e.g. attention, money or material possessions, alcohol or drugs), and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation can also occur online without involving physical contact.

**Extremism** goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable - including the young - by seeking to: sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination e.g. towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society.

**Bullying** not included in ' or ing Together' but probably more common in a sport situation than some of the other forms of abuse described above)

Bullying (including online bullying, for example via text or social media) may be seen as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated or sustained over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. The bully is often another young person. Although anyone can be the target of bullying, victims are typically shy, sensitive and perhaps anxious or insecure. Sometimes they are singled out for physical reasons – being overweight or physically small, being gay or lesbian, having a disability or belonging to a different race, faith or culture.

Bullying can include:

- physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc
- name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation or the continual ignoring of individuals
- posting of derogatory or abusive comments, videos or images on social network sites
- racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, sectarianism
- sexual comments, suggestions or behaviour
- unwanted physical contact.

The acronym STOP – Several Times On Purpose - can help you to identify bullying behaviour.

## Recognising Abuse

It is not always easy, even for the most experienced carers, to spot when a child has been abused. However, some of the more typical symptoms which should trigger your suspicions would include:

- unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries
- sexually explicit language or actions
- a sudden change in behaviour (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper)
- the child describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her
- a change observed over a long period of time (e.g. the child losing weight or becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt)
- a general distrust and avoidance of adults, especially those with whom a close relationship would be expected
- an unexpected reaction to normal physical contact

- difficulty in making friends or abnormal restrictions on socialising with others.

It is important to note that a child could be displaying some or all of these signs, or behaving in a way which is worrying, without this necessarily meaning that the child is being abused. Similarly, there may not be any signs, but you may just feel that something is wrong. If you have noticed a change in the child's behaviour, first talk to the parents or carers. It may be that something has happened, such as a bereavement, which has caused the child to be unhappy.

### **If you are concerned**

If there are concerns about sexual abuse or violence in the home, talking to the parents or carers might put the child at greater risk. If you cannot talk to the parents/carers, consult your organisation's designated Welfare/Safeguarding Officer or the person in charge. It is this person's responsibility to make the decision to contact Children's Social Care Services or the Police. It is NOT their responsibility to decide if abuse is taking place, BUT it is their responsibility to act on your concerns.

## Appendix B – RYA Instructor Code of Conduct

Revised May 2020

### RYA Instructor Code of Conduct for RYA Instructors, Coach Assessors, Trainers and Examiners

This document outlines the code of conduct under which all holders of RYA instructor qualifications and RYA training appointments (hereafter referred to as instructors) are required to comply. The code of conduct is intended to make clear to all participants, instructors and RYA appointment holders the high standards to which all are expected to conform. Instructors must:

- If working with people under the age of 18, read and understand the Safeguarding Children and/or Safeguarding Adults policies and guidelines as detailed on the RYA website at [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of their boating activity.
- Place the wellbeing and safety of the student above the development of performance or delivery of training.
- They should follow all guidelines laid down by the RYA with regards specific training or coaching programmes.
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the RYA with regards to specific training or coaching programmes.
- Not develop inappropriate working relationships with students (especially children). Relationships must be based on mutual trust and respect and not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Encourage and guide students to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
- At the outset, clarify with students (and where appropriate their parents or carers) exactly what is expected of them and what they are entitled to expect.
- Always promote the positive aspects of the activity (e.g. courtesy to other water users).
- Behave appropriately to ensure the safety of instructors and others under your direction.
- Not do or neglect to do anything which may bring the RYA into disrepute.
- Hold relevant up to date governing body qualification as approved by the RYA.  
Consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.
- Act with integrity in all customer and business to business dealings pertaining to RYA training.  
Not teach or purport to provide RYA courses or RYA certification outside of the framework of an RYA recognised training centre
- Notify the RYA immediately of any court imposed sanction that precludes the instructor from contact with specific user groups (for example children or adults at risk).
- Notify RYA Training in the event of any health issues that may affect their ability to carry out their responsibilities.  
Not carry out RYA training, examining or coaching activities whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Failure to adhere to the RYA Instructor Code of Conduct may result in the suspension or withdrawal of RYA qualifications or appointments.

The RYA will provide updated information relating to your qualification and information regarding continuing Professional development opportunities as appropriate via Training Notices, Training Guidance and other communications. Instructors should make reasonable endeavours to keep up to date with this information and ensure their continued compliance with this Code of Conduct.

## **Appendix C RYA Coach Code of Ethics and Conduct**

Revised Jan 2012

**Sports Coaching help the development of individuals through improving their performance.**

**This is achieved by:**

1. Identifying and meeting the needs of individuals.
2. Improving performance through a progressing programme of safe, guided practice, measured performance and/or competition.
3. Creating an environment in which individuals are motivated to maintain participation and improve performance.

**Coaches should comply with the principles of good ethical practice listed below.**

1. All RYA Coaches working with sailors under the age of 18 must have read and understood the Child Protection Policy as detailed on the RYA website at [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk). If you are unable to access the website please contact the Racing Department for a copy.
2. Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and treat everyone equally within the context of their sport.
3. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of the performer above the development of performance. They should follow all guidelines laid down by the RYA and hold appropriate insurance cover.
4. Coaches must develop an appropriate working relationship with performers based on mutual trust and respect. Coaches must not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward. In particular they must not abuse their position of trust to establish or pursue a sexual relationship with a sailor aged under 18, or an inappropriate relationship with any sailor.
5. Coaches must encourage and guide performers to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
6. Coaches must hold up to date and nationally recognised governing body coaching qualifications.
7. Coaches must ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.
8. Coaches must, at the outset, clarify with performers (and where appropriate their parents) exactly what is expected of them and what performers are entitled to expect from their coach. A contract may sometimes be appropriate.
9. Coaches must co-operate fully with other specialists (e.g. other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the performer.
10. Coaches must always promote the positive aspects of their sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
11. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.