

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Saltcote Sailing Club



(RYA Affiliated Club)

1. Policy Statement

Saltcote Sailing Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard and protect children, young people, and adults at risk who participate in sailing and associated activities. The club is committed to ensuring that all participants can enjoy the sport in a safe, positive, and inclusive environment.

This policy is based on the principles and guidance set out by The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and relevant UK legislation.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All children and young people under the age of 18
 - Adults at risk
 - All club activities, whether on or off the water
 - All members, volunteers, instructors, carers, & visitors
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3. Principles

- The welfare of children and adults at risk is paramount
 - All individuals have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice
 - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
 - Concerns will be responded to promptly, appropriately, and sensitively
 - Confidentiality will be maintained where possible, but never override safety
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4. Recognising Abuse

Abuse may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical abuse
 - Emotional or psychological abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Neglect
 - Bullying or harassment
 - Discriminatory abuse
 - Financial or material abuse (particularly of adults at risk)
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5. Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO)

The club will appoint a Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) in accordance with RYA guidance.

Role of the CSO includes:

- Acting as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns
- Maintaining confidential safeguarding records
- Ensuring concerns are reported to statutory agencies or the RYA when appropriate
- Promoting safeguarding awareness within the club

Club Safeguarding Officer:

Name: ____Commodore Bryan Stoughton____

Contact details: Baldybryan@msn.com 07486 888841____

6. Responsibilities

Club Management Committee

- Ensure safeguarding arrangements are implemented
- Support the CSO in their role
- Review this policy annually

Members, Volunteers, and Instructors

- Follow this safeguarding policy and the RYA Code of Conduct
 - Report any safeguarding concerns immediately
 - Act in a manner that promotes safety and respect
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7. Codes of Conduct and Good Practice

All adults working with children or adults at risk must:

- Treat all participants with respect and dignity
 - Avoid being alone with a child wherever possible
 - Maintain appropriate professional boundaries
 - Always use appropriate language and behaviour
 - Never engage in bullying, harassment, or discriminatory behaviour
 - Avoid any conduct that could be misinterpreted
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8. Recruitment, Training, and DBS Checks

- Volunteers and instructors working regularly with children will be recruited in line with RYA Safer Recruitment guidance
 - DBS checks will be undertaken where appropriate
 - Relevant safeguarding training will be encouraged and supported by the club
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9. Photography, Video, & Online Safety

- Parental consent will be obtained for the use of images of children
 - Images will be used only for legitimate club purposes
 - Online communication with children will be conducted openly and transparently, following RYA guidance
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10. Responding to Concerns

If a safeguarding concern arises:

1. Ensure immediate safety if necessary
2. Report the concern to the Club Safeguarding Officer without delay
3. Record facts accurately and objectively
4. Do not investigate or promise confidentiality

If the concern involves the CSO, report it to the Club Chair or directly to statutory agencies or the RYA.

11. Reporting to External Agencies

Where appropriate, concerns may be reported to:

- Local Authority Children's Services
 - Local Authority Adult Safeguarding Team
 - Police or Emergency Services (999 in an emergency)
 - RYA Safeguarding Team
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12. Confidentiality and Record Keeping

All safeguarding records will be:

- Stored securely
 - Accessed only by those who need to know
 - Managed in accordance with data protection legislation
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13. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or following:

- A safeguarding incident
 - Changes to RYA guidance or legislation
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Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Review Date: _____