

Yeadon Sailing Club

Child Welfare Policy

Statement of Intent

Yeadon Sailing Club (YSC) as an organisation which works with children under the age of 18 years commits itself to the care and protection of young sailors, both members of the Club and non-members whilst they are participating in activities organised by the Club.

The Club will ensure that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately as defined in the Children Act 1989. Anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered a child for the purposes of this document.
- This policy is kept under periodic review.
- All relevant allegations, complaints and their outcome are notified to the Royal Yachting Association's Child Protection Co-ordinator.

This policy is based on Guidelines from the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) for Child Protection.

Yeadon Sailing Club

Child Welfare Procedures

Purpose

Yeadon Sailing Club (YSC), as an organisation which works with children under the age of 18 years, commits itself to the care and protection of young sailors, both members of the Club and non-members, whilst they are participating in activities organised by the Club. The YSC Child Welfare Procedures provides instructions to members of the Club and gives guidelines for good practice and behaviour in connection with child welfare issues.

The Procedures are based on Guidelines from the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) for Child Protection and will be kept under periodic review.

Recruitment

All paid staff and volunteers who have contact with children will be subject to scrutiny by the Officers of the Club. Where appropriate, references will be taken up and consent to request a Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Certificate of Disclosure obtained.

Guidelines for Coaches, Volunteers, Club Members and Associates

All members of the Club should follow the good practice guidelines detailed below. By taking this advice the risk of allegations of abuse will be minimised:

- Do not spend excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.
- Do not take children alone on car journeys, no matter how short.
- Do not take children to your home.
- Where any of these are unavoidable ensure they only occur with the full knowledge and consent of an Officer of the Club or the child's parents.
- Ensure that training programmes are within the ability of the individual child.
- Whilst photographs and videos are used as training aids, photographs and videos of children must not be published without the knowledge and consent of their parents.
- Never engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Never allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- Never allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Never make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Never let allegations made by a child go unchallenged or unrecorded always act.
- Never do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves.

Clearly there are times when it may be necessary to do things of a personal nature for children, for example if they are disabled or in an emergency situation. In an emergency situation parents should be fully informed of the steps taken and every effort should be made to ensure that the utmost discretion is used. An independent adult witness should be present if at all possible.

Junior Consent Forms

Where a child is sailing in the club a Junior Consent Form must be completed which lists all medications the child may need and gives permission for medication or treatment to be administered in the parents' absence, including hospitalisation.

Club Welfare Officer

The Club will appoint a Club Welfare Officer (CWO) whose role will be:

- To ensure that the policy and these procedures are regularly reviewed and updated.
- To ensure the policy is available to all relevant staff and volunteers in the Clubhouse and on the website.
- To monitor the practice of relevant staff and volunteers.
- To receive reports of any concerns or allegations.
- To decide on the appropriate action to be taken.
- To keep the RYA informed as necessary.

Handling Concerns, Reports or Allegations

A complaint, concern or allegation may come from the child, their parents or someone within YSC. It may involve something that has happened to the child outside the sport. Children may confide in adults they trust in a place where they feel at ease. An allegation may range from mild verbal 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 to report them to the appropriate statutory authorities.

When handling an allegation from a child

Always:

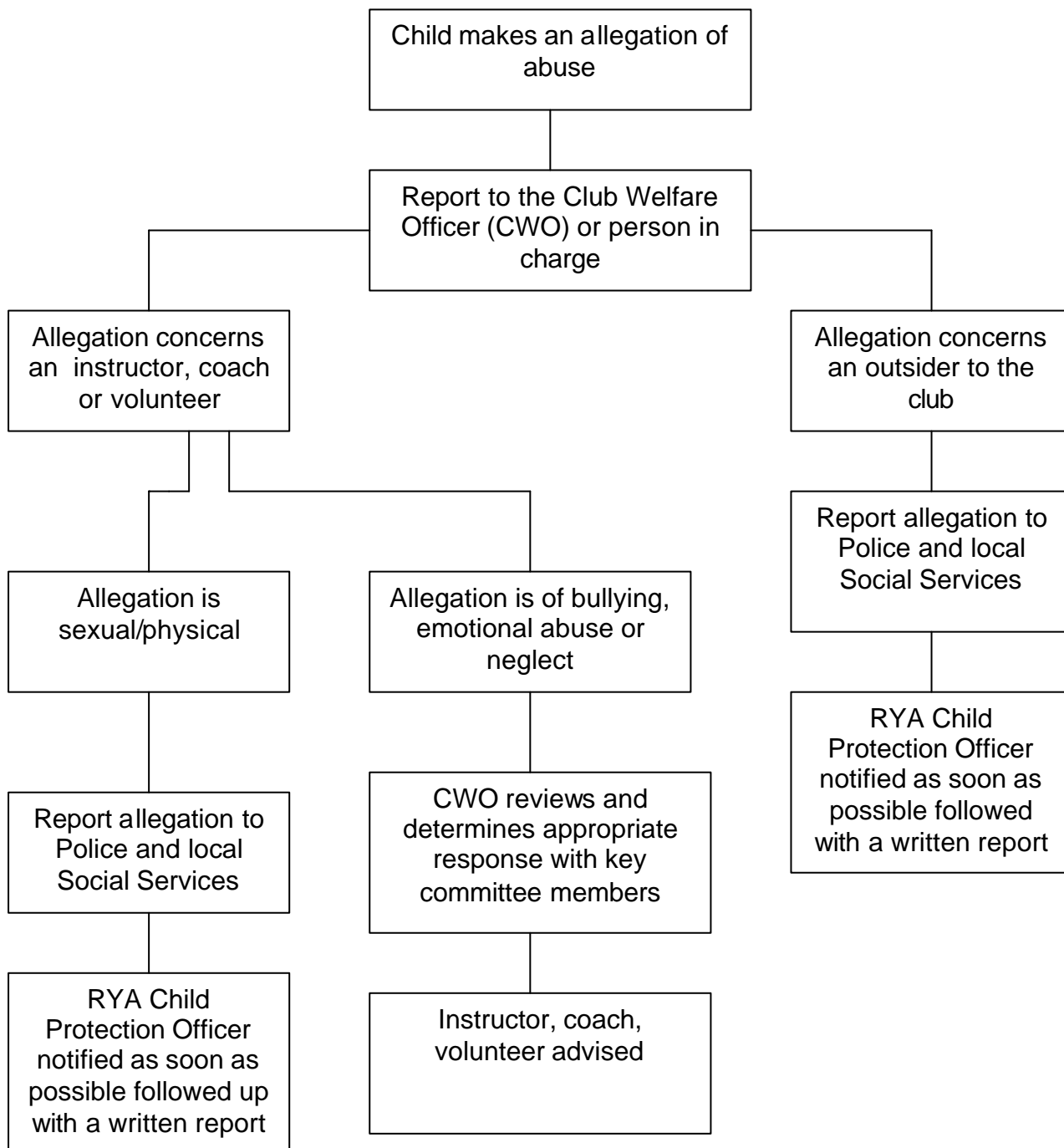
- Stay calm – ensure the child feels safe.
- Show and tell the child you are taking what s/he says seriously.
- Reassure the child and stress that s/he is not to blame.
- Be honest – explain that you will have to tell someone else to help stop the alleged abuse.
- Make a note of what the child has said as soon as possible after the event.
- Maintain confidentiality – only tell others if it will help protect the child.

Never:

- Rush into actions that may be inappropriate.
- Make promises you can't keep.
- Ask inappropriate or leading questions which may jeopardise a police investigation
- Take sole responsibility, consult the Child Protection Co-ordinator or someone you can trust so that you can begin to protect the child and gain support for yourself.

The flow chart on next page shows the procedures that should be followed.

If abuse is suspected or alleged to have occurred the following procedures will be followed:



Need Urgent Advice?
NSPCC Helpline Tel 0808 800500
RYA Child Protection Co-ordinator Tel 023 8060 4104

RYA Legal Tel 0845 345 0373 offers support and advice to instructors, coaches and volunteers