

SUDBURY CANOE CLUB

AFFILIATED TO BRITISH CANOEING



Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

Our Canoe Club (Sudbury Canoe Club) is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. All members should show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of others, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club.

We believe that taking part in paddlesport should be a positive and enjoyable part of children's/vulnerable adults lives and to achieve this have the following aims:

Club coaches should follow the BC Coaches Official Code of Conduct, which is available from The Club Co-ordinator or from the BC (<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/Code-of-Conduct-Coaches-2018.pdf>)

All club coaches, helpers and officials working with young people should read and adhere to the BCU Child Protection and Harassment Policy. The Club will follow the guidance of the policy in the event of any concerns or allegations. This policy is available from The Club Junior Officer, Heather Palmer (or second K J Hall) and the link to safeguarding children policy can be found here:

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/P1-British-Canoeing-Safeguarding-Children-Policy-290518.pdf> This document highlights the appropriate care and actions that should be followed to secure a safe paddling environment and deal with issues in the correct manner but below highlights some of the important elements.

PADDLESAFE

Paddlesafe - in line with BC documentation

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 the BC policy on safeguarding children is to ensure that we as a club and affiliate to the BC provide individuals with access to confidential advice, guidance and support, 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 welfare is paramount.
- Anyone under the age of 18 is classed as a child.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, marital status, pregnancy, maternity and sexual orientation 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. British Canoeing recognises that some children may have additional vulnerabilities or are disadvantaged by their experiences. It is important that all those who work with children are vigilant in creating a safe culture and are aware of those who may have additional vulnerabilities.

We know that if procedures are to help protect children, everyone involved in Paddlesport needs to see and discuss them. We therefore make these accessible to members and those wishing to join the club through the website www.sudburycanoeclub.org so that they are widely distributed and then issues raised will be discussed at club committee meetings and adopted into general procedures.

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,

- Says that she/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.

Bear in mind that 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, 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 a child tells you that he or she is being abused

- Stay calm.
- Do not promise to keep it to yourself.
- Listen to what the child says and, please, take it seriously.
- Only ask questions if you need to identify what the child is telling you – do not ask about explicit details.
- Make a detailed note of what the child has told you but, as advised in the previous section, please do not delay passing on the information.

If you are a member, or the parent/carer or friend of a member of the Sudbury Canoe Club you should:

- Tell the person appointed for safeguarding; this is normally the Club Welfare Officer (SCC Junior Officer) Heather Palmer or second Kyrstie J Hall (Chairperson and Welfare 2nd Officer). At an event tell the person responsible for safeguarding or the event organiser - unless, of course you suspect them of being involved OR
- Contact the home nation Safeguarding Lead Officer Cath Cooke Tel: **0115 6660197*** **Email: safeguarding@britishcanoeing.org.uk**
- If you need urgent advice contact the **NSPCC Child Protection 24 hours Helpline 0808 800 5000**

The person responsible for safeguarding children at this organisation can:

- Talk to the child's parents/carers about the concerns if you think there may be an obvious explanation such as a bereavement or pressure from their studies/exams.

- If you need urgent advice contact the NSPCC Child Protection 24 hours Help Line. Contact your local social services department or, in an emergency, the Police.
- If you are working with paddlers away from home, at a training camp, perhaps, or a national/ regional competition - tell the team manager or the designated welfare officer.
- If you are working with a school - inform the head teacher.
- If you are involved in a paddle scheme such as local authority canoeing lessons, refer to their safeguarding and child protection procedures.

Please note, that when you have reported your concerns to the NSPCC, police or social services you are also required to contact your home nation Safeguarding Officer to advise them of your concern and to whom you have reported it. A standard reporting form for this purpose is available from your home nation website or **call British Canoeing Safeguarding Lead Tel: 0115 6660197***

**(If calling out of office hours, leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible the next working day.)*

If a child tells you that he or she is being abused

- ● Stay calm.
- ● Do not promise to keep it to yourself.
- ● Listen to what the child says and, please, take it seriously.
- ● Only ask questions if you need to identify what the child is telling you – do not ask about explicit details.
- ● Make a detailed note of what the child has told you but, as advised in the previous section, please do not delay passing on the information.

The Club will ensure that anyone working with young people and or vulnerable adults is appropriately supervised and if instructing them on a regular basis, undertake a screening procedure, namely a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

All the club members are made aware of the Club Code/s of Conduct FB, website and email and a hard copy is available on request.

The Club will obtain written medical details of child/vulnerable adult paddlers which will be made known to coaches, where deemed appropriate and/or necessary. Parents/Guardians will be asked to complete a declaration form on joining The Club and when appropriate a Consent Form these forms to be held by the Junior Officer.

The Club will only use BC qualified/updated coaches and assess volunteer leaders according to guidelines set by the BC and the SCC committee – others wishing to instruct can work alongside a qualified coach. The club will encourage and support those willing to gain qualifications and assist coaches to stay updated.

The Club has appointed the Junior Officer to deal with any issues concerning Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults and all members will be notified of this person. Anyone with concerns with respect to children or vulnerable adults should contact the Junior Officer, Heather Falmer Tel: 07931 200614. If the Junior Officer is unavailable, they can contact the Club Chairman Kyrstie J Hall 07890700890 or the BC Child Protection lead: Cath Cooke Tel: **0115 6660197*** **Email: safeguarding@britishcanoeing.org.uk**

(Call emergency services, 999 or 112, if someone needs immediate medical attention or is at risk of immediate harm or danger)

The Club will adopt and regularly review a Health and Safety Policy.

The Club will review this policy annually. ¹

¹ Reviewed Feb 2024 by DH - no changes made. Next review due Feb 2025 by Chair

Signed Kyrstie J Hall Date 12/09/22

Position: Chairperson

