



OUSE AMATEUR SAILING CLUB

FOUNDED 1881

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Ouse Amateur Sailing Club (OASC) Welfare Policy

This policy is based on the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Guidelines for clubs, class associations & recognised training centres January 2015.

Policy statement

As defined in the Children Act 2004, for the purposes of this policy, anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. This policy also applies to vulnerable adults.

It is the policy of the OASC to safeguard children and young people taking part in sailing activities from physical, sexual or emotional harm. The club will take reasonable steps to ensure that it provides a safe environment for children, both members and non-members, whilst they are participating in activities organised by the club. It recognises that the safety and welfare of the child is paramount and that all children, whatever their age, gender, disability, culture, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, social status or sexual identity, have a right to protection from abuse. All suspicions and allegations of inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

All club members should be aware of and comply with this policy.

Good Practice

As well as protecting the child it is important to protect members from false allegations. This is done by promoting good practice. **If you are concerned that there may be a problem which might provoke an allegation, then inform the Welfare Officer immediately.**

Although OASC has a duty of care to its members, visitors and particularly to young people who cannot take full responsibility for their own safety; **parents must be present and responsible for their child's welfare and behaviour at all times or designate another adult who has agreed to take that responsibility.**

Below are some common sense guidelines that all club members should follow:-

- When children are changing or showering, adults should not enter the changing rooms alone. If it is necessary to enter then it is best to be accompanied by another adult.
- Do not spend time alone with children away from others.
- Avoid taking children in a car alone, however short the journey (although this may be necessary for the safety of the child in a medical emergency). Parental permission should be sought where possible.
- Do not take children to your home.
- Do not photograph or video children, or publish their pictures without the knowledge and consent of a parent/guardian.
- If a child is having difficulty with a wetsuit or buoyancy aid, tell them to ask a friend to help if at all possible.
- If you have to assist a child with clothing, safety equipment etc. make sure you are in full view of others, preferably adults.
- Parental consent must be obtained in the event where medication or treatment is required to be administered in the absence of a parent/guardian; this includes hospitalisation.
- Remember it is always best to have another adult with you if you feel you need to act.

Never:-

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged or use such language yourself when with children.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves.
- Fail to respond to an allegation made by a child; always act

It may sometimes be necessary to do things of a personal nature for children, particularly if they are very young or disabled. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of both the child (where possible) and their parents/carers. In an emergency situation which requires this type of help, parents should be fully informed. In such situations it is important to ensure that any adult present is sensitive to the child and undertakes personal care tasks with the utmost discretion.

Please do not let these issues prevent you from helping and supporting children, but be aware that if alone, your actions may be misinterpreted.

Awareness and following these guidelines may prevent misunderstandings.

What to do if abuse is suspected/ alleged to have occurred.

For example: if a child tells a member that he/she is being abused.

Always

- Stay calm-ensure 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 honest and explain you will have to tell someone else to help stop the alleged abuse.
- Make a written note of what the child has said as soon as possible after the event.
- **Immediately report the information to the Welfare Officer**

Never

- Rush into actions that may be inappropriate.
- Make promises you cannot keep.
- Ask inappropriate questions, which may jeopardise any impending police investigation.
- Take sole responsibility – inform the Welfare Officer so you can begin to protect the child and gain support.

OASC Welfare Officer

The OASC Welfare Officer is _____.

Anyone who has concerns about a young person's welfare or allegations involving OASC should contact the Welfare Officer immediately.

tel _____

e-mail _____

Further advice and help.

OASC members are not experts in recognising child abuse, however if suspected abuse has taken place or a member has been given information that leads them to believe that abuse was happening or had taken place the information will be passed on to the appropriate authorities.

If you have concerns about the safety or well-being of any child or young person contact Norfolk County Council Customer Services Centre on **0344 800 8020**.

Useful resources

Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board

www.nscb.norfolk.gov.uk

NSPCC free 24 hour helpline 0808 800 5000.

Royal Yachting Association

www.rya.org.uk/go/childprotection

Child Protection in Sport Unit

www.thecpsu.org.uk

Active Norfolk

www.activenorfolk.org

This policy will be kept under periodic review.

April 2015