

Dale Yacht Club Safeguarding Policy Statement

Adopted from the RYA Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Statement. Revised by RYA Jan 2020



This policy refers to anyone under the age of 18, defined as a child by the Children Act 1989¹. The policy applies to all Dale Yacht Club (DYC) members, sailing participants, staff, contractors and volunteers.

DYC is committed to safeguarding children who take part in its activities from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying. We recognise that the safety, welfare and needs of the child are paramount and that any child, irrespective of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual or gender identity or social status, has a right to protection from discrimination and abuse.

DYC takes all reasonable steps to ensure that, through safe recruitment, appropriate operating procedures and training, it offers a safe and fun environment to children taking part in its events and activities.

The child's experience of the sport is our priority. We will create a safe and welcoming environment, both on and off the water, where children can have fun and develop their skills and confidence. We will treat all children with respect, celebrate their achievements and listen to their views and experiences.

DYC:

- Recognises that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone, not just those working directly with them.
- Carefully recruits and selects all DYC staff, contractors and volunteers in roles involving close contact with children and provides them with appropriate information or training.
- Responds swiftly and appropriately to all complaints and concerns about poor practice or suspected abuse, referring to external agencies as necessary.
- Regularly reviews safeguarding procedures and practices in the light of experience or to take account of legislative, social or technological changes.
- Communicates changes and shares good practice with training centres, clubs and class associations.

This policy will be reviewed by the DYC Welfare Officer and approved by the DYC Committee annually.

Members, staff, contractors and volunteers

DYC members, staff, contractors and volunteers whose role brings them into regular contact with young people will be asked to provide references, complete a safeguarding self-disclosure and where relevant training will be provided. The DYC Welfare Officer and those directly instructing, coaching or supervising young people will also be asked to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check if appropriate. Where sailing tuition is outsourced it is the responsibility of the outsourced training provider to ensure that all their instructors, coaches and supervisors have the right safeguarding checks and adhere to RYA approved safeguarding practices.

Good Practice

All members of DYC should follow the Good Practice Guidelines attached and agree to abide by the DYC 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.

¹ Applies in England and Wales. The relevant legislation in Scotland is the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, and in Northern Ireland the Children (Northern Ireland) order 1995

Adults are requested not to enter the toilets/showers/changing area 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.

Parents/carers will be advised that the toilets/showers/changing areas are open to the public and therefore it is their responsibility to ensure the welfare of their children when using them.

DYC 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/carers and spectators should be prepared to identify themselves if requested and state their purpose for photography/filming. If DYC 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 DYC Welfare Officer.

Concerns

Anyone who is concerned about a child, young member's or participant's welfare, either outside the sport or within DYC, should inform the DYC Welfare Officer immediately, in strict confidence. The DYC Welfare Officer will follow the Safeguarding Reporting Procedures.

Any member of DYC failing to comply with this Safeguarding Policy or any relevant Codes of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action under DYC rules.

Relevant policies

Please refer to **DYC's DBS Policy Statement, Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders and Policy Statement on the Secure Handling, Use, Storage, Retention and Disposal of DBS Disclosure Certificates and Certificate Information**, for further information on DYC's approach to safeguarding.

Approved June 2021