

SOUTHEND CANOE CLUB



Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

Southend Canoe Club is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all members and appreciates that we need an effective and robust safeguarding approach. All members should show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of others, and conduct themselves both on and off the water in a way that reflects the principles and policies of the Club.

Taking part in Paddlesport should be a positive and enjoyable experience for all and should take place in a safe environment. The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and it is everybody's responsibility to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm.

The Club promotes good practice in paddlesports and related activities in order to reduce situations for the abuse of children or vulnerable adults and to protect Volunteers and others.

Children should always be accompanied by a responsible adult and this person is responsible for that child's safety and welfare at all times off the water, including the transportation/collection to and from water based activities. The Club takes responsibility for ensuring appropriate supervision and safety on the water. If any young person or vulnerable adult is staying overnight they must be accompanied by their responsible adult who is best placed to look after their needs. Their responsible adult should also be present in any changing areas to ensure their safety/wellbeing

The Club has a responsibility to safeguard and promote the interests and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults, to take all reasonable steps to protect them from harm, discrimination, or degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings. Where practical the club will take steps to use safe and appropriate use of social media to communicate with any potential vulnerable person but this is expected to be with the knowledge of and close supervision of their known responsible adult. All club members would be expected to act in accordance our Equality Policy (and not discriminate, bully or harass).

The Club will use the British Canoeing Policy and Procedures (see page 2 for policy links) for child and vulnerable adult protection as guidelines but is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all its members without discrimination irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race or colour, religion or belief, social status, sex and sexual orientation.

If any Club member suspects any form of child/vulnerable adult abuse or feel that as a child they have been abused in any way or wish to raise an incident, they are strongly encouraged to report this to Club Welfare Officer / Chair or any member of the committee.

If no-one from the committee is available and the situation is critical, see other contacts below.

2. Incident Reporting Procedure

If a concern is raised or an allegation is made against an individual, the Welfare Officer (or in their absence the Club Chair) should speak to the parties concerned with a witness present and keep a record of the meeting, and report as required to British Canoeing.

Depending on the circumstances, it may be considered appropriate for the person(s) who is the subject of the allegation to be suspended from the club while the incident is investigated.

Confidentiality will be maintained at all times with information only being shared as necessary to resolve the issue.

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3. Useful Contacts:

SCC Welfare Officer Richard Moore

Email: sccoachingessex@gmail.com

SCC Co/Chairs Toby Dando / Richard Moore

Email: tobydando71@gmail.com

British Canoeing Safeguarding Lead (For anyone wishing to report a Safeguarding incident or concern).

Tel: **0115 8968842*** Email: safeguarding@britishcanoeing.org.uk

(If calling out of office hours, leave a message and your call will be responded to as soon as possible the next working day.)

NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION HELPLINE Tel: **0808 800 5000**

CHILDLINE Tel: **0800 1111**

If someone needs immediate medical attention or is at risk of immediate harm or danger call emergency services, 999 or 112.

4. External Resources:

BC Code of Conduct for Coaches:

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/Code-of-Conduct-Coaches-2018.pdf>.

BC Safeguarding Policies: <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/Safeguarding/P1-British-Canoeing-Safeguarding-Children-Policy-2905188.docx.pdf>

[P6-British-Canoeing-Safeguarding-Adults-Policy-2905188.docx.pdf](https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/uploads/documents/Safeguarding/P6-British-Canoeing-Safeguarding-Adults-Policy-2905188.docx.pdf) (britishcanoeing.org.uk)

5. DECLARATION

Southend Canoe Club hereby adopts and accepts this policy as a current operating practice regulating the actions of members. The club will also look to review its approach on an annual basis and make a declaration regards its effectiveness.

Version	Date	Reason for update	Approval	Next Review
1.0	1 Nov 22	Original	Treasurer	Nov 23
1.1	30 Oct 23	Review (Paul Porter) and re-publish	SCC Committee	Sept 24