



CHILD WELFARE POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Thornton Steward Sailing Club endorses and will abide by the RYA Policy statement on Child Protection:

It is the policy of the RYA to safeguard children and young people taking part in boating from physical, sexual or emotional harm. The RYA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, children participating in RYA activities do so in a safe environment. We recognise 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
- As defined in the Children's Act 1989, anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purposes of this document.

TSSC will actively seek to:

- Create a safe and welcoming environment, both on and off the water, where children can have fun and develop their skills and confidence.
- Recognise that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work with children.
- Ensure that our organised training events are run to the highest possible safety standards.

We will treat all children with respect and celebrate their achievements.

The Club will seek general written consent from members via the annual membership application form before taking photos or video and publishing such images. Parents and spectators should be prepared to identify themselves if requested, and state their purpose for photography/filming. If the Club 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 Club Welfare Officer. Any member may request the removal of images from the Club's archive or promotional materials; any such request to be actioned as soon as possible by the newsletter editors, webmaster, or any member of the committee.

Concerns

Anyone who is concerned about a young member's welfare, either outside the sport or within the Club, should inform one of the Club Child Welfare Co-ordinators immediately, in strict confidence. The Club Welfare Co-ordinator will follow the attached procedures (see *RYA Flowcharts 1 and 2*).

Any member of the Club failing to comply with the Child Protection policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

Training Courses

No child under 18 will be accepted on a training course without the presence of a parent, or adult member formally nominated to act in "loco parentis".

It is the duty of the Principal to ensure that all Instructors and helpers are aware of TSSC's Child Welfare Practices and Procedures, and ensure that all Instructors are CRB checked.

The above statement does not apply to members only acting in "loco parentis"; and not as staff on a training course, as in this case the nomination of such a member is the responsibility of the parent.

The management committee will appoint child welfare co-ordinators, who will:

- Maintain an up to date policy and procedures, compatible with the RYA's.
- Ensure that relevant volunteers are aware of and follow the procedures.
- Advise the management committee on child protection issues.
- Maintain contact details for local Children's Social Care Services and Police.

If there is a concern, the designated person/s would:

- Be the first point of contact for any concerns or allegations, from children or adults, ensuring that confidentiality is maintained in all cases.
- Decide on the appropriate action to be taken, in line with the organisation's procedures and in conjunction with the person in charge (Commodore, Principal etc).
- Keep the RYA informed as necessary (*see flowcharts*).

RYA designated person

The RYA's Child Protection Co-ordinator is Jackie Reid, Personnel and Administration Manager, tel. 023 8060 4104, e-mail jackie.reid@rya.org.uk.

If Jackie Reid is unavailable and the matter is urgent, contact Jackie Bennetts, RYA Volunteer Development Officer, tel. 023 8060 4199, e-mail jackie.bennetts@rya.org.uk.