

Aquarius Sailing Club

Child Protection Policy and Guidelines

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AMENDMENT SHEET

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1	Initial issue of AQSC Child Protection Plan	June 2006

1. Introduction

The Aquarius Sailing Club (hereafter referred to as AQSC or The Club) offers the expertise of volunteers to teach new members how to sail. Increasingly these new members have included children. Although AQSC operates a strict parental consent under 18's membership procedure is now felt appropriate to strengthen this with a formal child protection policy document.

This policy has therefore been introduced in response to guidance from the RYA and internal concerns re child protection expressed by the Management Committee.

2. Policy Statement

- 2.1 As defined in the *Children Act 1989*, anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purposes of this document.
- 2.2 The child's welfare is paramount.
- 2.3 All children whatever their age, culture, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief etc. have the right to protection from abuse.

Note: Abuse is a collective term. Directly it covers mistreatment, cruelty, neglect and exploitation. However indirectly it can also be associated with an assumption of inappropriate attention or behaviour.

- 2.4 AQSC is basically a self-help organisation and has no paid full time or part time employees.
- 2.5 The role of volunteers in teaching and organising sailing at The Club is fundamental. To back this up The Club has a strong policy of parental involvement, as reflected in the rules defining under 18's membership requirements.

The following principles apply:-

- 2.6 Having joined AQSC children under 18 may only visit The Club with their parent(s) or guardian in attendance. This rule applies both to training and non-training visits.
- 2.7 While at The Club and during onshore training and sail training afloat children are seldom out of sight of their parent(s) or guardian. This is quite deliberate and aimed at ensuring trainees feel secure and relaxed.
- 2.8 The active involvement and cooperation of parent(s) or guardian is required when their children are undergoing sail training. Parent(s) or guardians are encouraged to participate in the training with their children therefore ensuring a high degree of direct parental/guardian supervision.

3. Good Practice Guide

Child abuse concern is a very difficult situation for sailing instructor volunteers and club officers who freely donate their time in the promotion of their chosen sport. Therefore to lessen potential situations where alleged inappropriate behaviour might become an issue the following guidelines should be observed at all times:-

- 3.1 The parent(s)/guardian of the trainee must be in attendance at all times and the instructor should make himself/herself known to them.
- 3.2 The purpose and method of the training must be explained to the parent(s)/guardian and trainee before the start of the session.

3.3 If appropriate the parent(s)/guardian should be offered the opportunity to participate in the training.

3.4 Inappropriate behaviour by the trainee (i.e. bad language etc.) should be referred to the parent(s)/guardian at the first opportunity.

4. Other

4.1 No one under the age of eighteen may purchase alcohol at The Club (see AQSC *Rules & By-laws (Section 8)*).

4.2 The primary purpose of The Club is sailing. This means that all age groups can be at the club at any one time. The bar is an open area within the main clubroom and therefore does not exclude members or visitors children.

5. Related AQSC Documentation

The following documents also contain references to child protection within The Club:-

5.1 AQSC Rules and By-laws (2005) – Section 2 - Membership

5.2 AQSC Rules and By-laws (2005) Appendix 2 – Conditions of Junior Membership.

5.3 AQSC Rules and By-laws (2005) Appendix 3 – Club operating schedule (Protection of Children from Harm).