

# Gairloch Boat Club



## Safeguarding



### Policy Statement v4.1

Jan 2025

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Gairloch Boat Club is committed to safeguarding children and young people taking part in its activities, from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying.

We recognise that the safety, wellbeing, welfare and needs of the child/young person are paramount and that all children, irrespective of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual or gender identity or social status, have a right to protection from discrimination and abuse.

Gairloch Boat Club 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.

For the purposes of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. Everyone has a responsibility and can help in the safeguarding of children and young people, therefore all members of the Club should be aware of the policy.

### Club Welfare Officer

The Club Welfare Officer is:

Carol Bulmer

### Volunteers

The Club Welfare Officer and those regularly instructing, coaching or supervising young people will be asked to apply for PVG Scheme Membership and/or a Scheme Update.

### Good Practice

References can be found in *the RYA Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Guidelines Document*

<https://www.rya.org.uk/about-us/policies/safeguarding/safeguarding-policies-procedures-and-guidelines>

All members of GBC should follow the good practice guidelines, (see below) and the RYA Scotland Anti-bullying policy (see RYA Appendix F) as well as agree to abide by the Club Code of Conduct (see below) and the RYA Racing Charter contained in the Racing Rules of Sailing. Those working or volunteering with young people should also be aware of the guidance on recognising abuse (see RYA Appendix C).

Adults are requested not to enter the showers and changing rooms 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.

The Club will seek written consent from the child/young person and their parents/carers before taking photos or video at an event or training session or 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 young people, 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.

## **Concerns**

Anyone who is concerned about a young member's or participant's welfare, either outside the sport or within the Club, should inform the Club Welfare Officer immediately, in strict confidence. The Club Welfare Officer will follow the appropriate procedures (see RYA Flowcharts 1 and 2). Any member of the Club failing to comply with the Safeguarding policy and any relevant Codes of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action.

## **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

On 1 September 2020, the UNCRC Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament. The purpose of the Bill was to bring the UNCRC into Scots law and to put in place measures to achieve a culture of everyday accountability for children's rights across public services in Scotland.

The [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#) came into force on 16 July 2024.

Under the UNCRC, a child means every human being below the age of 18. A child has all the rights in the UNCRC until they are 18 years old.

Article 42 States Parties undertake to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike

## Handout for Instructors, Coaches and Volunteers –

### Good Practice Guide

This guide only covers the essential points of good practice when working with children and young people. You should also read GBC's Child Protection Policy and Procedures which are available for reference at all times.

- Avoid spending any significant time working with children/young people in isolation
- Do not take children/young people alone in a car, however short the journey
- Do not take children/young people to your home as part of your organisation's activity
- Where any of these are unavoidable, ensure that they only occur with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge of the organisation and/or the child/young person's parents
- Design training programmes that are within the ability of the individual
- If a child/young person is having difficulty with a wetsuit or buoyancy aid, ask them to ask a friend to help if at all possible
- If you do have to help a child/young person, make sure you are in full view of others, preferably another adult
- Restrict communications with young people via mobile phone, e-mail or social media to group communications about organisational matters. If it's essential to send an individual message, copy it to the individual's parent or carer.

### You should never:

- engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games
- allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form
- allow children/young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged, or use such language yourself when with children/young people
- make sexually suggestive comments to a child/young person, even in fun
- fail to respond to an allegation made by a child/young person; always act
- do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves.

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

## GBC Code of Conduct

It is the policy of Gairloch Boat Club that all participants, coaches, instructors, officials, parents and volunteers show respect and understanding for each other, treat everyone equally within the context of the sport and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club. The aim is for all participants to enjoy their sport and to improve performance.

**Abusive language, swearing, intimidation, aggressive behaviour or lack of respect for others and their property will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action.**

### Participants - young sailors

- Listen to and accept what you are asked to do to improve your performance and keep you safe
- Respect other participants, coaches, instructors, officials and volunteers
- Abide by the rules and play fairly
- Do your best at all times
- Never bully others either in person, by phone, by text or online
- Take care of all property belonging to other participants, the club or its members

### Parents

- Support your child's involvement and help them enjoy their sport
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results
- Never force your child to take part in sport
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes
- Encourage and guide your child to accept responsibility for their own conduct and performance
- Respect and support the coach
- Accept officials' judgements and recognise good performance by all participants
- Use established procedures where there is a genuine concern or dispute
- Inform the club or event organisers of relevant medical information
- Ensure that your child wears suitable clothing and has appropriate food and drink
- Provide contact details and be available when required
- Take responsibility for your child's safety and conduct in and around the clubhouse/event venue

### Coaches, Instructors, Officials and Volunteers

- Consider the welfare and safety of participants before the development of performance
- Encourage participants to value their performance and not just results
- Promote fair play and never condone cheating
- Ensure that all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part
- Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect
- Work in an open environment
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with young people

- Be an excellent role model and display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Do not drink alcohol or smoke when working directly with young people
- Communicate clearly with parents and participants
- Be aware of any relevant medical information
- Follow RYA and club guidelines and policies
- Holders of RYA Instructor and Coach qualifications must also comply with the RYA Code of Conduct
- Holders of RYA Race Official appointments must also comply with the RYA Race Officials Code of Conduct.

If you are concerned that someone is not following the Code of Conduct, you should inform the Club Welfare Officer or the person in charge of the activity