



**YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE YOUTH SAILING ASSOCIATION**

# **Child Protection Policy**

## **Statement of intent**

*The Yorkshire and Humberside Youth Sailing Association (YHYSA), as an organisation which works with children under the age of 18 years, commits itself to the care and protection of young sailors, both members of the Association and non-members, whilst they are participating in activities organised by the Association.*

*The Association will ensure that:*

- *The welfare of the child is paramount*
- *All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity, have the 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 Act 1989 anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered a child for the purposes of this document*
- *This policy is kept under periodic review.*
- *All relevant allegations, complaints and their outcome are notified to the Royal Yachting Association's Child Protection Co-ordinator.*

## **Recruitment**

All paid staff and volunteers will be subject to scrutiny by the Officers of the Association. Where appropriate, references will be taken up and consent to request a Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Certificate of Disclosure obtained.

## **Coaches**

Only persons holding current Coaching qualifications from the Royal Yachting Association will be recruited to work directly with children.

## **Guidelines for Coaches/Volunteers/all staff**

By taking the advice below, the risk of allegations of abuse will be minimised:

- Do not spend excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
- Do not take children alone on car journeys, no matter how short
- Do not take children to your home
- Where any of these are unavoidable, ensure they only occur with the full knowledge and consent of an Officer of the Association or the child's parents
- Ensure that training programmes are within the ability of the individual child
- Photographs and videos are used as training aids. Photographs and videos of children may not be published without the knowledge and consent of their parents
- Never engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Never allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form
- Never allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Never make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- Never let allegations made by a child go unchallenged or unrecorded; always act
- Never do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves\*

\*Clearly there are times when it may be necessary to do things of a personal nature for children, for example if they are disabled or in an emergency situation. In an emergency situation, parents should be fully informed in writing of the steps taken and every effort should be made to ensure that the utmost discretion is used. An independent adult witness should be present if at all possible.

## **Medical Consent Forms**

Where a child is to be coached in the absence of their parents, a Medical Consent Form must be completed which lists all medications the child may need and gives permission for medication or treatment to be administered in their absence, including hospitalisation.

## Child Protection Officer

The Association will appoint a Child Protection Officer whose role will be:

- To ensure that this policy is regularly reviewed and updated
- To issue a copy of this policy to all relevant staff and volunteers
- To monitor the practice of relevant staff and volunteers
- To receive reports of any concerns or allegations
- To decide on the appropriate action to be taken
- To keep the RYA informed as necessary

## If abuse is suspected or alleged to have occurred

The following procedures will be followed:

