

# UKWA Child Welfare

## Policy Information

As defined in the Children Act 1989/2004 anyone under the age of 18 will be considered as a child. The UKWA child welfare co-ordinator (designated persons) is -

**Tessa Ingram**

[tess1988@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tess1988@hotmail.co.uk)

They are the first point of contact for any concerns or allegations from children or adults, and will ensure that confidentiality is maintained in all cases. They may delegate responsibility in some circumstances.

### **UKWA child protection policy statement**

It is the policy of the UKWA (United Kingdom Windsurfing Association) to safeguard children and young people taking part in windsurfing from physical, sexual or emotional harm. The UKWA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, children participating in UKWA 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 the right to protection from abuse.

### **What is child abuse?**

- Physical abuse ~ when a child is physically hurt or injured
- Neglect ~ when someone fails to meet a child's basic needs
- Sexual abuse ~ when someone uses a child to meet their own sexual needs
- Emotional abuse ~ there is persistent lack of love or affection or emotionally ill treatment
- Bullying ~ when someone is deliberately hurtful towards a child usually over a period of time

### **If you have a concern / responding to a concern**

If you the child or an adult has any concerns about child protection then you need to go and talk to the designated person Tessa.

- They will listen and fill in an information sheet (they may need to ask you a few questions)
- They will explain who this information will be passed onto and it will only be people who really need to know.
- They will also explain what will happen next and keep you informed at all stages.
- All information will be kept securely and is confidential
- In some cases, informing parents is inappropriate so will not be done

### **Bullying**

Please see the UKWA Adopts the RYA Anti Bullying Policy.

### **Inappropriate Language**

It is inappropriate to use abusive, offensive or strong language of any kind to a child or vulnerable adult. This is already an offense under the racing rules of sailing (Rule 69), but it is considered as bullying or abuse if somebody attacks a child once or over a period of time using offensive, abusive or strong language. The UKWA will:

- Seek an apology
- Hold a UKWA hearing / Protest hearing ~ disqualification from Race or Event
- Pass information onto the RYA for them to take over the issue

Under no circumstances will abusive, offensive or strong language be tolerated by the UKWA.

## **Confidentiality**

All information is treated as confidential, stored securely and only shared with those who need to know. The relevant authorities, the RYA, other designated person, parents, child and the UKWA chairman.

## **Rescue Procedures**

All UKWA crews are trained to rescue competitors in an appropriate manner. Every effort shall be made to uphold the dignity of an individual during a rescue, but it is understood that the process of a rescue and the individual's welfare takes priority over the dignity of the individual.

## **First Aid**

First aid is part of our normal duty of care. Any child who has a medical condition that the UKWA need to know of should let the designated person and the race office know.

## **Photography**

Publishing articles and photos in magazines, newsletters, websites, local newspapers etc is an excellent way of recognising young people's achievement and promoting the UKWA and windsurfing as a whole. However, it is important to minimise the risk of anyone using images of children in an inappropriate way. Digital technology makes it easy to take, store, send, manipulate and publish images.

There is a disclaimer on all entry forms. When you sign the form, you are giving the UKWA permission to take and publish photographs and motion pictures. If you would like to opt out, you need to write a letter explaining this and hand it to the race office.

Most sailing activity takes place in areas that are open to the public and it is therefore not possible to control all photography, but any concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography, or about the inappropriate use of images, should be reported to the UKWA child protection officers and treated in the same way as any other child protection concern. Parents and spectators should be prepared to identify themselves if requested and state their purpose for photography/filming.

## **Parental responsibility**

Although the UKWA have a duty of care to their members, and particularly to young people, parents must be responsible for their children's welfare and behaviour, or designate another adult to take that responsibility.

## **Other information**

- It is inappropriate to take into or use cameras and camera phones in changing rooms
- If you have heard someone bullying or using abusive, offensive or strong language to a child please come and tell someone, it will not always involve a child protection investigation just a chat with the person or person's responsible.
- This policy will be kept under periodic review.

## **RYA child welfare**

All relevant concerns, allegations, complaints and their outcome should be notified to the RYA Safeguarding and Equality Manager if appropriate

- RYA Safeguarding and Equality Manager - Katie Loucaides - [Katie.Loucaides@rya.org.uk](mailto:Katie.Loucaides@rya.org.uk) - 02380 604104
- RYA Safeguarding – Andrea Gates - [safeguarding@rya.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rya.org.uk) - 023 8060 4226.

**The UKWA child welfare and protection policy is available to read upon request at the race office and is also available on the UKWA website.**