

Child/Vulnerable Adult Protection.



MCC is firmly committed to the development of children and adults through paddlesports, safeguarding their well being and ensuring that they can enjoy the sport, the club and events without fear of harassment, bullying, discrimination or abuse.

All coaches and officials will conduct themselves in a manner befitting their responsibility and will work within appropriate child safety guidelines such as the BCU's.

Below is an outline of responsibilities.

Forms of Abuse

The following are described with respect to activity provision:

- **Neglect** failure to keep children safe, exposing them to undue cold or to unnecessary risk of injury.
- **Physical Abuse** physically hurt or injure a child (eg by hitting, shaking etc), disregard the limitations of the child's growing body.
- **Sexual Abuse** full intercourse, masturbation, fondling, excessive contact when helping child to change into wetsuit or when assisting the child out of the water or into a kayak.
- **Emotional Abuse** constantly shouting at children, ignoring children's efforts, bullying in the group or by coach, over-enthusiastic parents.

Identifying Signs of Abuse

- Unexplained bruising or injuries
- Sexually explicit actions or language
- Changes in behaviour
- Something a child has said
- A change observed over a long period of time

Taking Action

If you suspect an instance of abuse or if a child has confided in you, you must:

- Stay calm and don't rush into inappropriate action
- Reassure the child, stressing that they are not to blame
- Listen to and take seriously what the child has to say
- Be honest, explain that you may have to tell other people
- Make sure you are quite clear about what the child says, as you may have to pass it on to childcare professionals. Let the child explain in their own words.
- Record what is said in a legible format. Fill out an accident/incident form, making sure to include observations of the child's behaviour, emotional state and any marks observed

- Maintain confidentiality
- Do not take sole responsibility – tell one of the other club members as soon as possible. It is important that we can begin to protect both the child and you in what may be an extremely difficult situation
- In cases of suspected familial abuse, member will inform club officials who will then inform social services or the police and explain that it involves child protection
- If child needs urgent medical attention, it will be sought with urgency
- In the case of allegations made about a volunteer, the child must be separated from the alleged abuser and forms will be filled in for both parties. We will then seek the advice of childcare professionals or the police before taking further action.

Preventative Measures

- Adhere to the BCU child protection policy and amend paper work as required.
- Obtain self- declaration forms from all active coaches and volunteers within the club.
- At least 3 people, 2 of who are coaches to attend the Sports Coach workshop.
- Carry out CRB checks for all coaches and volunteers who actively work with young people at the club.
- It is the coaches responsibility to avoid situations that could be misunderstood.

Equity/Equal Opportunities.

This club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:

Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.

- At least 3 club members made up of coaches and management to attend the workshop on equality run by Sports Coach UK.
- No person or persons will be discriminated against for any reason on application for membership or for a position within the club.
- Any members, junior members or associates of members suspected of discriminatory behaviour will be excluded from activities until the situation is satisfactorily resolved and the appropriate action taken.
- Continued inappropriate behaviour will result in expulsion from the club.
- If a member considers that they are being discriminated against then they should seek the advice of persons in a position of responsibility within the club or the BCU Child Protection/ Harassment Officer.

