

Club Safeguarding, Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Paddle Peak is responsible to ensure that anyone we come into contact with are not harmed during our activities. We will take reasonable steps to ensure the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and will act according to our legal duty to ensure this happens.

Safeguarding means:

We have a responsibility to keep children (under 18's) and vulnerable adults safe.

We will take appropriate action if we become aware of any concerns about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult.

Any concerns will be raised as soon as is practical to the Paddle Peak welfare officer or chair person..

Safeguarding Contacts:

Club Welfare Officer: Mark Proctor. mark@peakuk.com. t: 07817310766

Paddle Peak Chair: Peter Astles. info@paddlepeak.org t: 07713 485159

Paddle UK: safeguarding@paddleuk.org.uk

Policy:

Paddle Peak is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. All members should show respect and understanding for the rights, safety, and welfare of others, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Club as defined in this document.

Paddle Peak believes that taking part in Paddlesport should be a positive and enjoyable part of children and vulnerable adults lives. The Club will actively encourage and promote the following:

Paddle Peak coaches, helpers and officials working with young people should read and adhere to the British Canoeing's Child Protection and Harassment Policy. The Club will follow the guidance of the policy in the event of any concerns or allegations. A copy of the policy is available to download on the Paddle Peak club website.

Paddle Peak will ensure that anyone working with young people undertake a screening procedure.

Paddle Peak will obtain written medical details of young paddlers which will be made known to coaches where deemed appropriate and/or necessary.

Paddle Peak coaches and leaders are actively encouraged to challenge any abusive, bullying or negative behaviour which will detriment the participation, enjoyment and general well-being of any of its members.

If a safeguarding allegation is made against a member of Paddle Peak, it's coaches or leaders for any reason including, but not limited to the following:

Caused a concern that their behaviour has harmed or may have harmed a child or vulnerable adult. That they may have committed a criminal offence against a

child or vulnerable adult. That their behaviour poses a risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult. Concerns should be considered in the following areas: Physical abuse, Sexual abuse, Emotional abuse, Neglect, Inappropriate conduct, Inappropriate relationships between coaches, leaders, and members.

Any such allegations should be reported firstly to Paddle Peaks club welfare officer to deal with. If that person is unavailable, they can contact the Club Chairman or British Canoeing's Child Protection/Harassment Officer. Details are above.

All safeguarding incidents are to be reported on a Paddle Peak accident / Incident form. These are available from our coaches / leaders or from the Paddle Peak club website.

Discipline and appeals

All concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of children and young or vulnerable people will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately. The Club Welfare Officer is the lead contact for all members in the event of any protection concerns.

All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Club Welfare Officer and Chairperson.

The Paddle Peak Committee will meet to hear complaints within 14 days of a complaint being lodged. The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.

The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 14 days of the hearing.

There will be the right of appeal to the Paddle Peak Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The committee should consider the appeal within 14 days of the receiving the appeal.

Paddle Peak will review this Child Protection Policy / Safeguarding at least annually or at any time if required.