



STOCKSBRIDGE PENTAQUA SWIMMING CLUB

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Agreed by Committee: June 2008

Date for Review: June 2009

Purpose the Policy

This policy aims to provide a framework, which ensures that all adults and swimmers are familiar with, and consistently complies with ASA Child Protection Guidelines.

Underpinning Principals (ASA)

- All children have a right to freedom from abuse.
- Children have a right to be treated with respect and dignity.
- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children regardless of age, gender, racial origin, religious belief, sexual identity and any disability have a right to enjoy sport free from all forms of abuse or sexual exploitation.
- The ASA and associated clubs have responsibilities for the welfare of children and young people who take part in our sport.
- ASA has a responsibility to maintain confidentiality in all cases involving child protection and poor practice in line with the current legislation.
- The ASA will not tolerate, within its associated clubs, poor practice in dealing with child welfare.

The ASA policy on child welfare is mandatory and all affiliated clubs must appoint a Club Welfare Officer to oversee that the procedure is followed appropriately at all times.

A child is defined as any young person under the age of 18.

Aims of the Policy

- To protect children from harm.
- To encourage open and effective communication between swimmers, all coaches, poolside helpers, dry side helpers, team managers, chaperones and parents.
- To inform parents and swimmers of our responsibilities practices and procedures with regard to protecting children within the ASA framework.

Definition of Child Abuse

It is generally acknowledged that there are four main types of abuse:-

Physical
Sexual
Emotional
Neglect

Physical Abuse:

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning and scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm or deliberate ill health to a child. It might also occur if a child is forced to train beyond his/her capabilities.

Sexual Abuse:

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. It may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts, involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Emotional Abuse:

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child that adversely affects their development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless, unloved, and inadequate, or where inappropriate expectations are put upon them. In a sporting context this may include severe parental or coaching pressure to succeed. Racially and sexually abusive remarks constitute emotional abuse and it can be a feature of bullying.

Neglect:

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development, such as failing to provide shelter, food, clothing, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs. In a sporting context it could also mean failing to ensure that a child is safe or exposing them to harm.

Child Abuse in Swimming

Swimming plays a major part in the lives of many children and families and for most the experience is a positive one that provides them with many opportunities to have fun, keep fit and even participate at national and international competitions. However, sadly we know from experience that a small minority of individuals who wish to harm children will access them through our sport.

All adults involved in swimming have a responsibility to report concerns of a child abuse nature or poor practice appropriately and to act in a manner at all times that keeps children safe from harm.

Responsibilities

Role of the Welfare Officer

The Welfare Officer must ensure that:

- Policies and procedures adopted by the Committee are fully implemented and followed by all.
- All coaching staff and volunteers should feel able to raise concerns and feel that these concerns will be appropriately handled.
- Up to date record of CRB checks, ID and qualification verifications are kept for all who are involved with Stocksbridge Pentaqua Swimming Club. This will be done as part of the role of the Chairperson and/or Secretary.
- Refer cases and be a channel of communication.
- Support and advise.
- Have knowledge of the ASA systems and liaise with the ASA.
- Undertake relevant training (minimum 2 yearly).
- Ensure that parents and swimmers are aware of the Welfare Officer and their role. (Information is displayed in the Club Room).
- Review the policy annually.
- Provide information to the relevant ASA Officer if required.
- Keep the Head Coach and the Committee informed about changes in procedures.

Guidance for All Adults

- Ensure that the welfare of the child is paramount at all times.
- To be vigilant of any outward signs of abuse (refer to section 'What is Child Abuse').
- Stay calm.
- DO NOT promise to 'keep it to yourself'.
- To record any concerns/disclosures clearly and accurately on the appropriate forms.
- Pass records of any concerns to the Welfare Office as soon as they are noted.
- Alternatively, ring Swimline directly on 0808 100 4001 stating concerns.
- Follow procedures and practices in this policy.
- Attend relevant training.
- MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY AT ALL TIMES.

Records

- Accurate and relevant records are kept in a secure, locked place.
- Only Head Coach and Welfare Officer have access to these as Child Protection data is not subject to the Data Protection Act.
- When a child moves club, the Welfare Officer of the feeder club will inform the Welfare of the receiving club that they need to contact ASA directly if there has been any concerns regarding child protection.