



St Denys Sailing and Rowing Club

Child Protection Policy

(Updated March 2023)

St Denys Sailing and Rowing Club acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people using its facilities.

This policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that all children who engage with The Club:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of boating activities in a safe environment.
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in boating and at all times when visiting or engaged in activities involving The Club.

As part of our safeguarding policy St Denys Sailing and Rowing Club will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and will support the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.

Children and young people using The Club

It is The Club's policy only to accept as Members persons aged 18 years or over. As such children and young people under the age of 18 years ('Juniors') should never be present on the club premises without a supervising adult. This policy is intended to safeguard young people rather than discourage participation.

Participation in the club's activities by Juniors is strongly encouraged. Juniors may use the club facilities as a Guest of one or more Members but should be supervised by the Member(s) at all times whilst using club premises and whilst engaged in activities associated with The Club. The supervising Member may be a parent or guardian of the child, or another responsible adult into whose care the child or young person has been placed.

It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to satisfy themselves that the child is with an appropriate adult at all times, regardless of whether the parent or guardian is a Member and/or is also in attendance at the time of the child's visit to The Club. Where a child is engaged in using The Club's facilities, and their parent or guardian is not a Member, the parent or guardian is welcomed and encouraged to attend as a Guest. If attending the club

regularly in this manner, the parent or guardian will be encouraged to join the club, in accordance with the club rule on fair usage by Guests.

For reasons of practicality, The Club is unable to verify that any Officer, Member, Guest or contractor who may be appointed from time to time has been subject to vetting via the Disclosure and Barring Service. This includes those involved in organising, supervising or skippering activities on or off the water.

There are certain circumstances where physical contact with a child may be necessary (including for example, the fitting of buoyancy aids, assistance in boarding and disembarking boats and recovery from the water in the event of a capsized). By allowing their child to use the club's facilities, the parent or guardian accepts that this social contact may occur. Agreement should always be sought from the child and their supervising adult except in an emergency situation.

All Members are encouraged to provide assistance to Juniors wishing to get afloat. However for the protection of all parties, no Member should put themselves in a position where they are alone with a Junior who is not already known to them, either afloat, on club premises or engaged in club activities.

Where photographs, videos and other recordings are taken on The Club's premises or at events involving the Club, permission should be sought from the parent or guardian for the inclusion of any child in such recordings.

Where the Club seeks to use any such images or recordings for publicity or other reasons, additional permission from the parent or guardian will always be sought.

Reporting concerns

Every Officer, Member and Guest has a responsibility to report concerns regarding the welfare of a child or young person using The Club's facilities, regardless of whether these concerns relate directly to events at the premises or whilst engaged in Club activities.

Where any Member, Guest, Junior or contractor has concerns about the welfare of a child using The Club's facilities, these should be reported initially to parent or guardian where possible and appropriate.

Where this is not possible or is not appropriate due to the nature of the concerns, the concerns should be raised with one or more of the following:

- An Officer of the Club
- Southampton Children's Services (023 8083 3336)
- In an emergency, the police

Where a concern has been reported directly to a parent or guardian or to Children's Services and/or the police, an Officer of the Club whose names and contact details are displayed on the Club Notice Board, should be made aware of the circumstances at the earliest opportunity to allow a significant event analysis to take place.

Where concerns are raised about the welfare of children involving any Member of the Club, actions including suspension without prejudice may be considered in accordance with the club rules, pending investigation.

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As required by any association with whom the club is affiliated
- As a result of any other significant change or event
- Three years following the date of last review (March 2026)

Wayne Mitchell
Club Captain
March 2023