

Child Protection Policy

Rickmansworth Sailing Club

Reviewed: Summer 2020

Policy

The policy is as follows¹:

- The child's welfare is paramount.
- All children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- As defined in the Children Act 1989, anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purposes of this document.

Training volunteers

All primary volunteers, responsible for organizing and running activities, have been members of this or other local clubs for some while and are known to be of good character. If a new member to whom the above did not apply were to join the team then an appropriate reference would be taken up. Other volunteers are appropriately supervised to minimize any risk.

A declaration is to be made by primary volunteers. <http://www.rscsailing.org/selfDisclosure.php>

Prevention of Abuse and False Allegations of Abuse

The following rules should be followed whenever activities are planned and carried out:

- Avoid spending any significant time working with children in isolation
- Do not take children alone in a car, however short the journey
- Do not take children to your home as part of our activities.
- Where any of these is unavoidable, ensure that they only occur with the full knowledge and consent of the most senior committee member present or the child's parents.
- Design activities to be within the ability of the individual child.
- If a child is having difficulty with a wetsuit or buoyancy aid, ask them to ask a friend to help if at all possible
- If you do have to help a child, make sure you are in full view of others, preferably another adult
- Do not photograph or video children, or publish their pictures, without the knowledge and consent of their parents.

Volunteers should never:

- 1) Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games;
- 2) Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form;
- 3) Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged;
- 4) Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun;
- 5) Let allegations a child makes go unchallenged or unrecorded; always act;
- 6) Do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves.

If it is **necessary** for volunteers to do something of a personal nature for a child (maybe they are very young or disabled) it should only be done with the full understanding and consent of parents.

In an emergency situation which requires this type of help, parents should be told about what has been done so please tell the most senior committee member present. In such situations, it is important to ensure all volunteers are sensitive to the child and undertake personal care tasks with the utmost discretion and, if possible, in the presence of an adult witness.

We have consent (given in our standard application form) to administer medication/treatment in the absence of the parent/guardian; this includes hospitalisation.

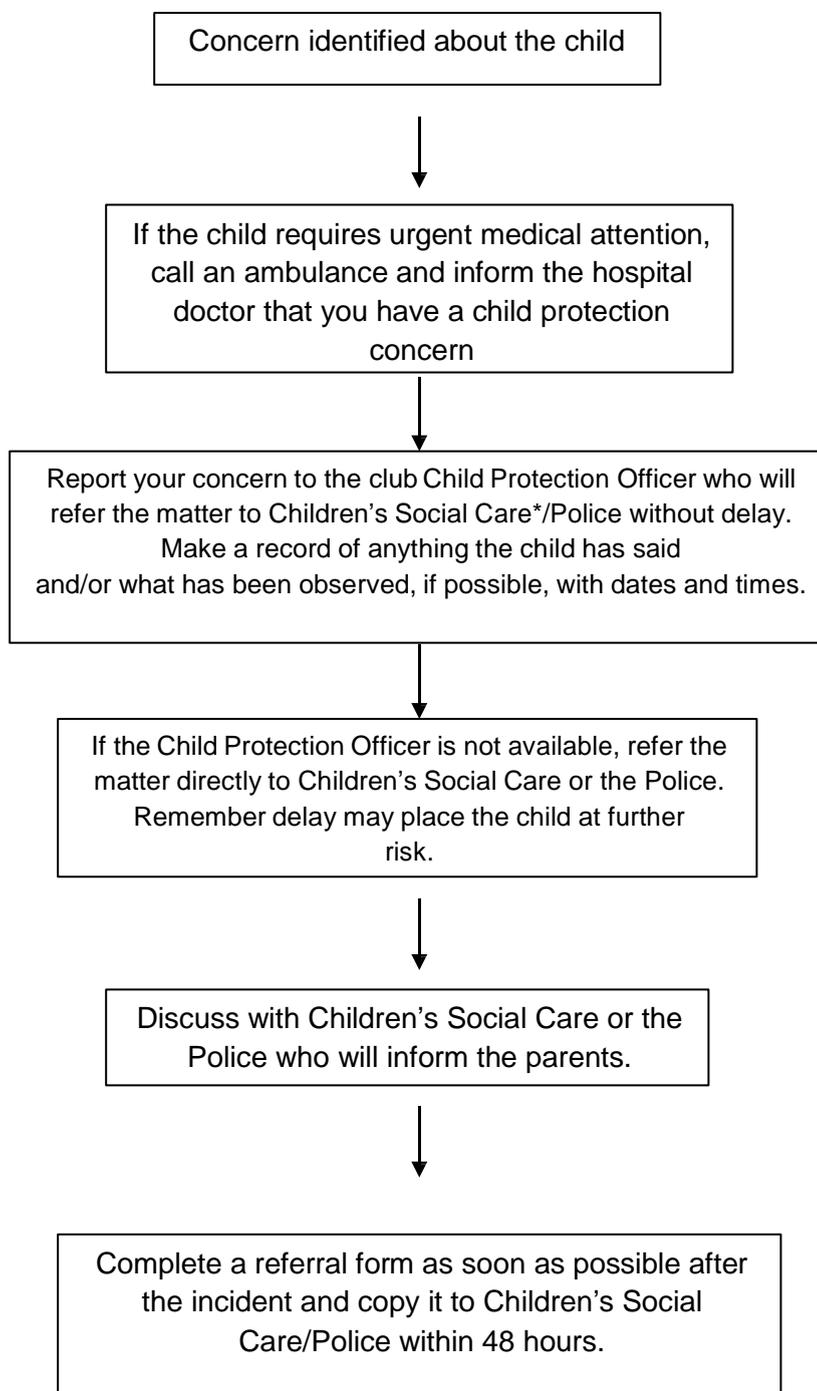
If this **consent is not given** then the parent or guardian must remain on the club premises while activities takes place.

Action to be taken in the event of an Incident or Allegation

The following procedures are to be followed and an incident report form is to be completed as appropriate.

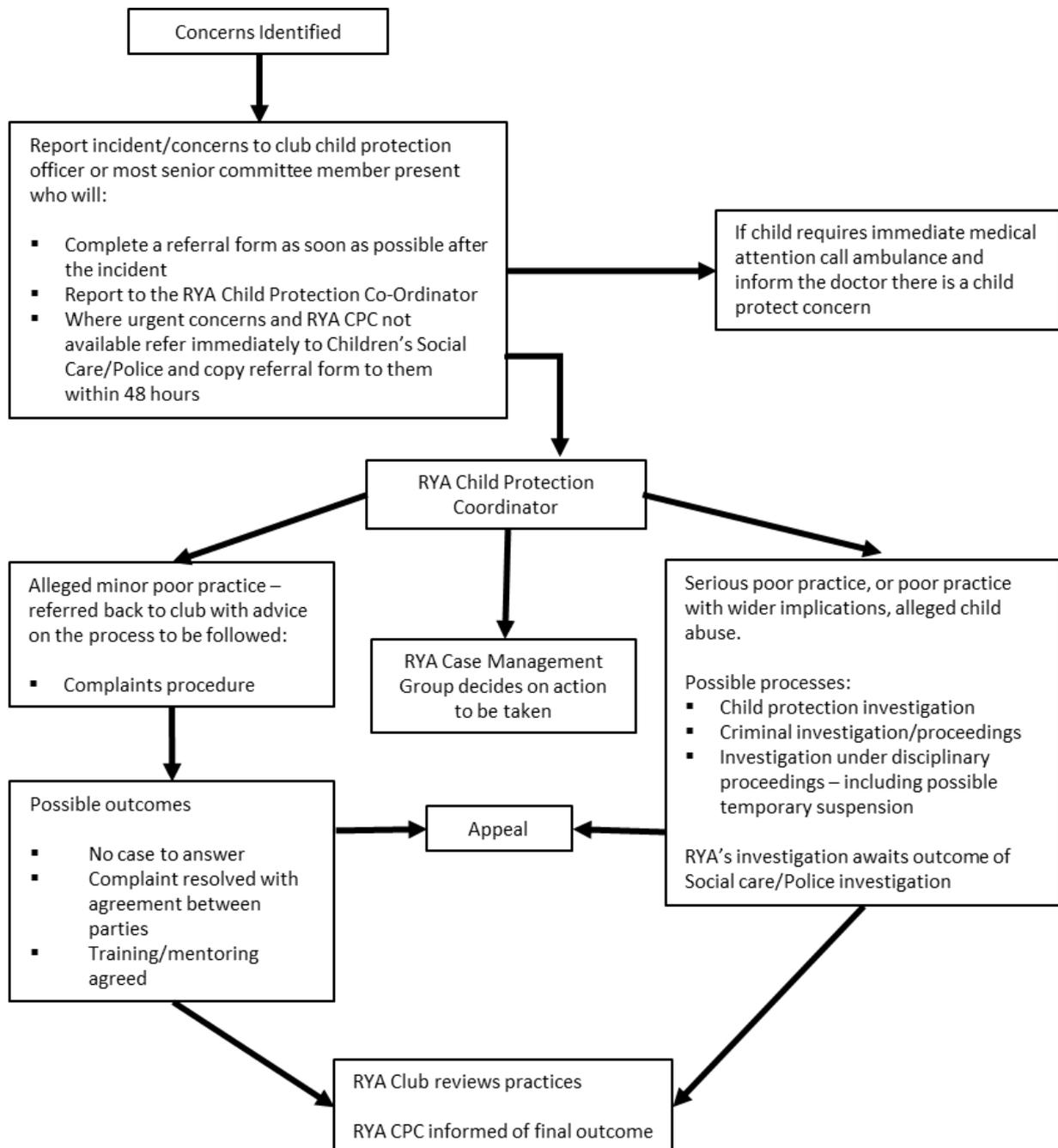
Any incidents occurring are to be referred to the most senior committee member present who will liaise with the club Commodore and the child protection officer concerning action to be taken.

Flowchart 1 – What to do if you are worried that a child is being abused outside the sport’s environment (but the concern is identified through the child’s involvement in the sport)



If you are uncertain what to do at any stage, contact the RYA’s Child Protection Coordinator on 023 8060 4104 or the NSPCC free 24 hour helpline 0808 800 5000.

Flowchart 2 – What to do if you are concerned about the behaviour of any member or volunteer



Report form.

This form should be copied, marked 'Private and Confidential', to the RYA Child Protection Co-ordinator and to the statutory authorities (if they have been informed of the incident) within 48 hours of the incident.

Date and time of incident	
Name and position of person about whom report, complaint or allegation is made	
Name and age of child involved	
Nature of incident, complaint or allegation (continue on separate page if necessary)	
Action taken	

(continue on separate page if necessary)	
If Police or Children's Social Care Services contacted, name, position and telephone number of person handling case	
Name, organisation and position of person completing form	
Contact telephone number	
Signature of person completing form	
Date and time form completed	
Name and position of organisation's child protection/welfare officer or person in charge (if different from above)	
Contact telephone number	

ⁱ "Child/Children" also refers to any vulnerable person to whom this policy equally applies