

Policy Statement

Wilsonian Sailing Club is committed to safeguarding adults at risk taking part in its activities from physical, sexual, psychological, financial, or discriminatory abuse or neglect. We recognise that everyone, irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, marriage or civil partnership or social status, has a right to protection from discrimination and abuse.

Wilsonian Sailing Club takes all reasonable steps to ensure that, through safe recruitment, appropriate operating procedures, and training, it offers a safe environment to adults at risk participating in its activities. All participants will be treated with dignity and respect.

All members and volunteers should be aware of the policy.

Safeguarding Officer

The current responsible person can be found on the club's official notice board in the clubhouse foyer, and they can be contacted by emailing safeguarding@wilsoniansc.org.uk

Staff and Volunteers

All Club staff and volunteers whose role brings them into regular contact with adults at risk will be asked to provide references. The Club Welfare Officer and those regularly instructing, coaching, or supervising adults at risk will also be asked to apply for an Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure. Those providing personal care will be asked to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure with Barred List check (in Scotland, to apply for PVG Scheme membership).

Good Practice

All members of the Club should follow the good practice guidelines attached (see RYA Sample Document 4). Those working with adults at risk should be aware of the guidance on recognising abuse.

Concerns

Anyone who is concerned about the welfare of an adult, either outside the sport or within the Club, should inform the Club Welfare Officer immediately, in strict confidence. The Club Welfare Officer will follow the attached procedures. Any member of the Club failing to comply with the Safeguarding Adults policy and any relevant Codes of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action under Club Rule 14.

Reference

This document is based on the RYA Document 'RYA Safeguarding Adults Policy and Guidelines for RYA affiliated clubs, class associations and organisations and recognised training centres' Version 5 Updated February 2020.

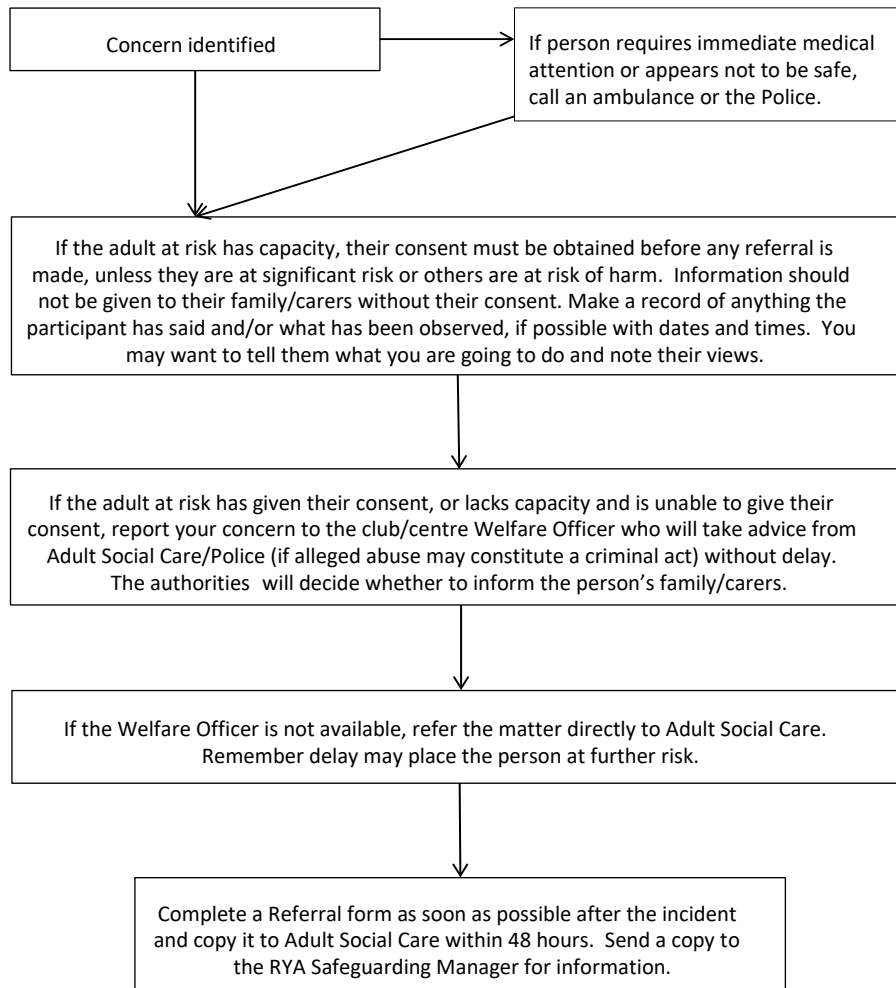
Reporting Procedures

If you are uncertain what to do at any stage, contact the RYA's Safeguarding Manager on 023 8060 4104 or your local authority Adult Social Care department.

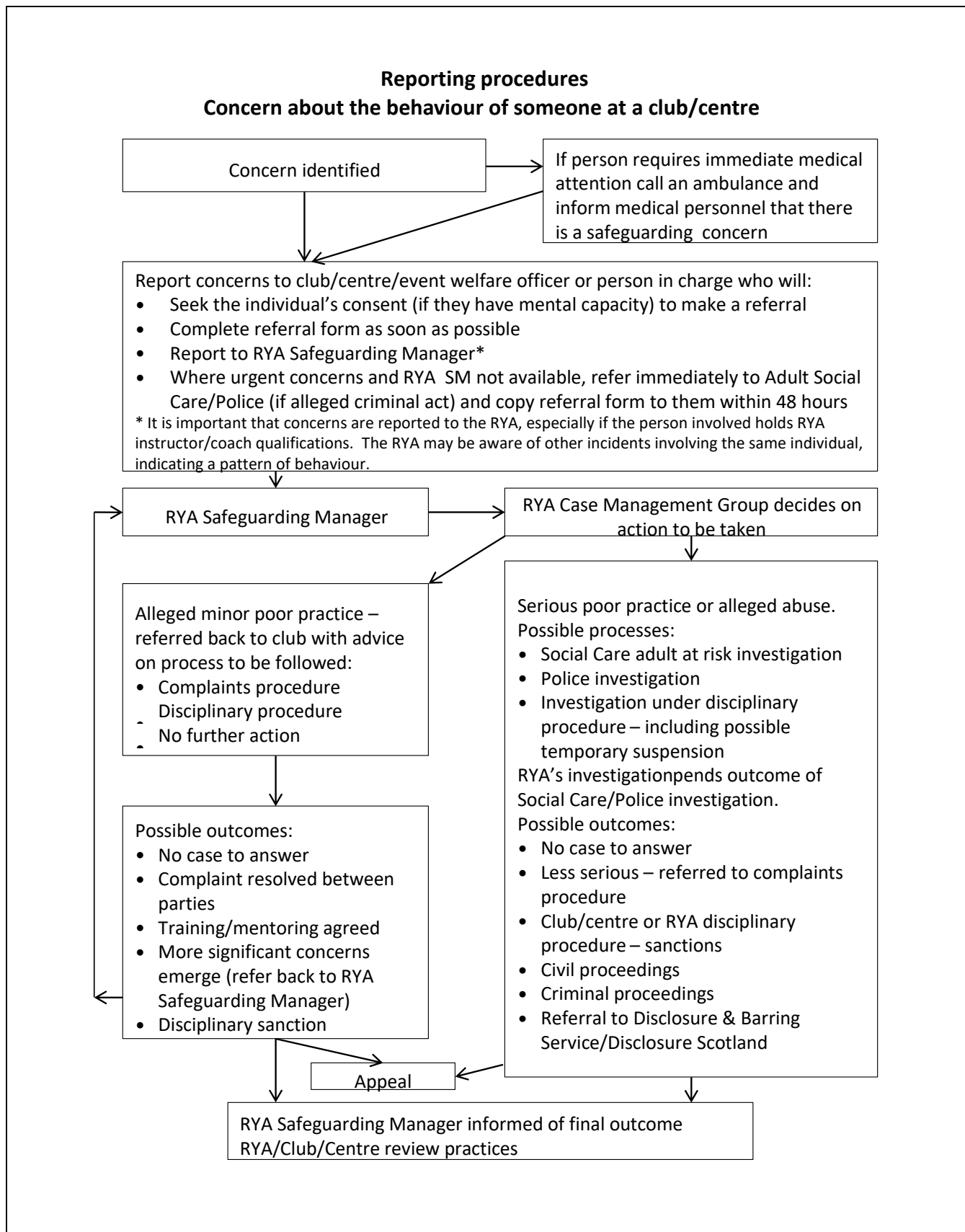
Details of Adult Social Care departments and emergency duty teams are listed on local authority websites and in local phone books. If you are unable to find the appropriate contact number, call the RYA's Safeguarding Manager or, if the person is at immediate risk, the Police.

Flowchart 1

**Reporting procedures
Concern about an adult at risk outside the sport environment**



Flowchart 2



Handout for Instructors, Coaches and Volunteers

This guide only covers the essential points of good practice when working with adults at risk. You should also read the organisation's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures which are always available for reference.

- Always communicate clearly, in whatever way best suits the individual, and check their understanding and expectations.
- Always try to work in an open environment in view of others.
- Avoid spending any significant time working with adults at risk in isolation.
- Do not take an adult at risk alone in a car, however short the journey, unless you are certain that the individual has the capacity to decide to accept a lift.
- Do not take an adult at risk to your home as part of your organisation's activity.
- Where any of these is unavoidable, ensure that it only occurs with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge of the organisation or the person's carers.
- Design training programmes that are within the ability of the individual.
- If you need to help someone with a wetsuit or buoyancy aid or provide physical assistance or support, make sure you are in full view of others.
- Take great care with communications via mobile phone, e-mail or social media that might be misunderstood or shared inappropriately. In general, only send group communications about organisational matters using these methods. If it's essential to send an individual message to a person who has a learning disability or other impairment that might affect their understanding, copy it to their carer.

You should never:

- engage in rough, physical, or sexually provocative games or activities.
- allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form.
- use inappropriate language.
- make sexually suggestive comments, even in fun.
- fail to respond to an allegation made by an adult at risk; always act • do things of a personal nature that the person can do for themselves.

It may sometimes be necessary to do things of a personal nature to help someone with a physical or learning disability. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of both the individual (where possible) and their carers. In an emergency which requires this type of help, if the individual lacks the capacity to give consent, carers should be fully informed. In such situations it is important to ensure that anyone present is sensitive to the individual and undertakes personal care tasks with the utmost discretion.

What is abuse?

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons.

Adults at risk may be abused by a wide range of people including family members, professional staff, care workers, volunteers, other service users, neighbours, friends, and individuals who deliberately exploit vulnerable people. Abuse may occur when an adult at risk lives alone or with a relative, within nursing, residential or day care settings, hospitals and other places assumed to be safe, or in public places.

The following is not intended to be an exhaustive list of types of abuse or exploitation but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern:

Physical abuse - including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate physical sanctions.

Domestic violence – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence. This won't happen at a club/centre, but there could be concerns about a participant's home situation.

Sexual abuse - including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjections to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

Psychological abuse - including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal from services or supportive networks. In a club context this might include excluding a member from social activities.

Financial or material abuse - including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits. People with learning disabilities or dementia are particularly vulnerable to this type of abuse. An example might be encouraging someone to book and pay for training courses that are inappropriate for their level of ability, or to purchase sailing clothing or equipment they don't need.

Discriminatory abuse - including forms of harassment, slurs, or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.

Neglect and acts of omission - including ignoring medical, emotional, or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating; or in a water sports context, failing to ensure that the person is adequately protected from the cold or sun or properly hydrated while on the water.

Self-neglect – this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. Self-neglect might indicate that the person is not receiving adequate support or care or could be an indication of a mental health issue such as depression.

Organisational abuse – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one-off incidents to on-going ill treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice because of the structure, policies, processes, and practices within an organisation.

Modern slavery – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive, and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude, and inhumane treatment.

Bullying (including 'cyber bullying' by text, e-mail, social media etc) - may be seen as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated, or sustained over a period, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. The bully may be another vulnerable person. Although anyone can be the target of bullying, victims are typically shy, sensitive, and perhaps anxious or insecure. Sometimes they are singled out for physical reasons – being overweight, physically small, having a disability - or for belonging to a different race, faith, or culture.

Mate Crime – a 'mate crime' as defined by the Safety Net Project is 'when vulnerable people are befriended by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them. It may not be an illegal act but still has a negative effect on the individual'. Mate Crime is carried out by someone the adult knows. There have been several serious cases relating to people with a learning disability who were seriously harmed by people who purported to be their friends.

Radicalisation - the aim of radicalisation is to inspire new recruits, embed extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals to the legitimacy of a cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.

Recognising abuse

Patterns of abuse vary and include:

- Serial abusing in which the perpetrator seeks out and 'grooms' individuals. Sexual abuse sometimes falls into this pattern as do some forms of financial abuse.
- Long-term abuse in the context of an ongoing family relationship such as domestic violence between spouses or generations or persistent psychological abuse; or
- Opportunistic abuse such as theft occurring because money or valuable items have been left lying around.

Signs and indicators that may suggest someone is being abused or neglected include:

- Unexplained bruises or injuries – or lack of medical attention when an injury has occurred.
- Someone losing or gaining weight, or an unkempt appearance.
- A change in behaviour or confidence.
- Self-harming.
- A person's belongings or money go missing.
- The person is not attending, or no longer enjoying, their sessions.
- A person has a fear of a particular group or individual.
- A disclosure – someone tells you or another person that they are being abused.

If you are concerned

If there are concerns about abuse taking place in the person's home, talking to their carers might put them at greater risk. If you cannot talk to the carers, consult your organisation's designated Welfare Officer or the person in charge. It is this person's responsibility to make the decision to contact Adult Social Care Services. It is NOT their responsibility to decide if abuse is taking place, BUT it is their responsibility to act on your concerns.

Social care professionals involved in taking decisions about adults at risk must take all the circumstances into account and act in the individual's best interests. You are not expected to be able to take such decisions.

The following six principles inform the way in which professionals and other staff in care and support services and other public services in England and Wales work with adults:

Empowerment – People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

Prevention – It is better to act before harm occurs.

Proportionality – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need

Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse.

Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

Local authorities in England act in accordance with the principles set out in the guide 'Making Safeguarding Personal' 2014. Adult safeguarding should be person led and outcome focussed. The person should be engaged in a

conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control, as well as improving quality of life, well-being and safety.

Some instances of abuse will constitute a criminal offence, for example assault, sexual assault and rape, fraud or other forms of financial exploitation and certain forms of discrimination. This type of abuse should be reported to the Police.