

## **MALLAIG & DISTRICT CANOE CLUB CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

**Mallaig & District Canoe Club is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in its care. It recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. For the purposes of this policy and associated procedures a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years.**

**Staff and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of children and young people.**

**This document outlines the club's commitment to protecting children.**

These guidelines are based on the following principles:

- The welfare of children is the primary concern.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
- Child protection is everyone's responsibility.
- Children have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so.
- Organisations shall work in partnership together with children and parents/carers to promote the welfare, health and development of children.

Mallaig & District Canoe Club will:

- Promote the health and welfare of children by providing opportunities for them to take part in kayaking and canoeing safely.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and protect them from abuse.
- Support and supervise its members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves.
- Require members and volunteers to adopt and abide by this Child Protection Policy and these procedures.
- Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children in line with this Policy and these procedures as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Observe guidelines issued by local Child Protection Committees for the protection of children.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Policy and these procedures.
- All Club members and coaches are expected to abide by the SCA Safeguarding Children Policy
- All Club members and coaches are expected to abide by the SCA Social Media Guidelines and Text and Email Messaging Guidelines. Coaches will not normally contact children directly by email/messaging services/'friending' on social media. We recognise, however, that our members come from a small community where families may know each other outwith the club. Therefore if club adults contact children in this way it should be with the knowledge & agreement of parents/carers.

### **Review**

This Policy and these Procedures will be regularly reviewed:

- In accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children or following any changes within Mallaig & District Canoe Club
- Following any issues or concerns raised about the protection of children within Mallaig & District Canoe Club.
- In all other circumstances, at least every three years.

**Signed** Joan Smith      Child Protection Officer

**Date**      August 2022