

TITANS CANOE CLUB

Safeguarding Policy



Policy Statement

Titans Canoe Club ("the Club") is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all participants, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This policy outlines our responsibilities to safeguard their welfare and protect them from harm while engaged in activities organized by or associated with the Club.

1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy aims to:

Protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults who participate in the Club's activities.

Provide Club members, staff, volunteers, and visitors with clear guidelines on safeguarding responsibilities.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

All members of Titans Canoe Club.

All staff, volunteers, and contractors engaged by the Club.

Parents, guardians, and spectators participating in or attending the Club's events.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is based on the following legislation and guidance:

Children Act 1989 and 2004

Working Together to Safeguard Children (UK Government guidance)

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Equality Act 2010

Relevant water sports governing body guidelines

4. Definitions

Child: Any individual under the age of 18.

Vulnerable Adult: A person aged 18 or over who is unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation due to physical or mental disability, age, illness, or other factors.

Abuse: Includes physical, emotional, sexual abuse, neglect, bullying, exploitation, and discrimination.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Committee: The Club's governing body is responsible for implementing and reviewing this policy.

Safeguarding Officer: A designated person who oversees safeguarding matters within the Club.

Members and Volunteers: All individuals must understand and follow the safeguarding procedures.

6. Code of Conduct

All members, staff, and volunteers must:

Treat all participants with respect and dignity.

Prioritize the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Avoid one-to-one situations unless necessary and ensure such interactions occur in an open or observable environment.

Refrain from any behavior that could be perceived as abusive, exploitative, or harmful.

7. Recruitment and Training

All staff and volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults must undergo appropriate safeguarding training and checks, including DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance or equivalent.

Induction processes will include safeguarding procedures and expectations.

8. Responding to Concerns

Disclosure: If a child or vulnerable adult discloses abuse, the person receiving the disclosure must listen carefully, stay calm, and avoid leading questions.

Reporting: All concerns or allegations must be reported to the Safeguarding Officer immediately. If the Safeguarding Officer is unavailable or implicated, concerns should be escalated to the relevant authorities or governing body.

Confidentiality: Information must be handled sensitively and shared only with those who need to know to protect the individual or investigate the issue.

9. Procedures for Dealing with Allegations

The Safeguarding Officer will document and assess all concerns.

Where necessary, the matter will be referred to social services, the police, or the governing body.

Any member accused of abuse may be suspended pending investigation.

10. Preventing Harm

Risk assessments will be conducted for all activities to identify and mitigate potential safeguarding risks.

Activities will be supervised appropriately, with suitable adult-to-child ratios maintained.

The Club will promote an open environment where participants feel safe to raise concerns.

11. Communication

This policy will be available to all members, staff, volunteers, and parents via the Club's website and during registration.

The Club will regularly communicate safeguarding expectations and updates through meetings, newsletters, and training sessions.

12. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Committee or sooner if there are changes in legislation or significant safeguarding concerns.

Feedback from members, participants, and stakeholders will inform updates.

Contact Details

Safeguarding Officer: Linda Szabo, titanscanoeclub@gmail.com

Local Authority Safeguarding Team: Paddle Scotland

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

Emergency Services: 999

Approval: This Safeguarding Policy was approved by the Titans Canoe Club Committee on 01/05/2025.

Signed: Maxime Biret

Chairperson, Titans Canoe Club