

Child Protection Policy Statement

To ensure that best practice is followed by this Club we shall work closely with our Governing Body. In order to promote the best practice in children's sport, we shall endeavour to comply with the guidelines in the 'Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport'.

In so doing this Club shall;

- Adopt and implement the 'Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport' as an integral part of its policy on children in the Club.
- Promote the voice of the child, in particular through meetings and the AGM
- Adopt and apply safe methods of selecting sports leaders
- Define the roles of committee members, sports leaders and parents / guardians
- Appoint at least one Children's Officer
- Have a Designated Person to act as liaison with the Statutory Authorities in relation to matters of child abuse
- Disseminate Codes of Conduct to the Membership and display these in the Club facilities
- Have in place procedures for dealing with a complaint made to the Statutory Authorities against a committee member, sports leaders or other Club member. These procedures will require a sports leader who is the subject of an allegation reported to the Statutory Authorities to stand aside while the matter is examined
- Ensure that coaches report to the Management Committee regularly
- Encourage regular turnover of Committee Membership
- Elect the Club Management Committee by the membership at each AGM
- Ensure that all Club members are given adequate notice of AGMs and other meetings
- Develop procedures for responding to and recording accidents

C.A.Y.C. Anti bullying Policy

Definition:

Bullying may take the form of physical attacks, such as hitting, kicking, taking or damaging belongings, verbal assault, including name-calling, insults, repeat teasing, racist assaults, or it may take more indirect forms, such as spreading malicious gossip, rumours or excluding someone from a social group. Bullying is a more serious problem than is sometimes realised. It is widespread and there is increasing evidence of immense distress caused by bullying, with a small number of children being driven to suicide every year.

Childhood Matters, 1996

Bullying is not an accepted behaviour towards anyone at County Antrim Yacht Club be they child, committee member, coach, staff, sports leader or parent. The possibility of people being bullied should be discussed openly within the Club and all young people and staff informed of both the Clubs' views on bullying and ways in which bullying can be prevented /stopped. It should be emphasised that anyone can be the victim of bullying and that being or feeling bullied is not a sign of weakness and does not make the victim a less valuable person. Anyone found to be bullying others will be dealt with both in regards to the behaviour exhibited and the reasons for the behaviour

C.A.Y.C. Fair Play Policy

County Antrim Yacht Club is committed to more than complying with the rules of sailing. This Club promotes friendship, respect for others and always participating in the right spirit.

This Club promotes participation by those of differing ability over winning.

This Club does not accept cheating, gamesmanship, the use of drugs to enhance performance, physical or verbal aggression, exploitation, unequal opportunity, excessive commercialisation or corruption.

Where children are involved, best effort and enjoyment shall always be stressed. Children shall only be encouraged to win in an open and fair way.

C.A.Y.C. Designated Person

(This is the person responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children)

For the 2007 season the Designated Person within C.A.Y.C. is Mr. Gary Stanbridge. (Tel. 93378767 or 07801 738753)

Responsibilities of the Designated Person:

- Have a knowledge of the 'Code of Ethics & good Practice for Children in Sport' and statutory guidelines
- Have a knowledge of categories and indicators of abuse
- Undertake training in relation to child protection
- Be familiar with and carryout reporting procedures as outlined in the Code of Ethics
- Communicate with parents / guardians and / or agencies as appropriate
- Assist with the development and implementation of the Club's child protection training needs
- Be aware of local contacts and services in relation to child protection
- To inform local duty social worker in the area and / or PSNI of relevant concerns about individual children
- Report persistent poor practise to the National designated Person
- Advise the CLUB administrators on issues of confidentiality and records

Note: Children's Officers and Designated Persons do not have the responsibility of investigating or validating child protection concerns within the Club and have no counselling or therapeutic role. These roles are fulfilled by the statutory authorities.

C.A.Y.C. Children's Officers

The Children's officers for the 2007 season are Mr. Gary Stanbridge (Tel. 93378767 or 07801 738753) and Mrs. Sheela Lewis (Tel. 93353818).

Role of the Children's officers

- To promote awareness of the 'Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children's Sport' within the Club
- To influence policy and practice within the Club in order to prioritise children's needs
- To ensure that children know how to make concerns known to appropriate adults or agencies
- To encourage appropriate involvement of parents / guardians in Club activities
- To act as advisors to coaches dealing with children
- To report regularly to the Management Committee on how Club policy impacts on young people and sports leaders
- To monitor changes in membership and follow up any unusual dropout, absenteeism etc by children or sports leaders
- To ensure children have a voice in the running of their Club and ensure that there are steps young people can take to express concerns about their sport / experiences
- To raise awareness of the Codes of Conduct amongst the membership
- To ensure that the Club rules include:-
 - § complaints, disciplinary and appeals procedures
 - § an anti bullying policy
 - § rules in relation to travelling with children
 - § supervision and recruitment of leaders