



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

Child Protection Procedure

The City of Sunderland Amateur Swimming Club, in partnership with the Amateur Swimming Association and NSPCC believe that the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse. Everyone in swimming; administrator, club official, coach, parent, friend, children themselves, everyone can help.

Abuse can occur anywhere; at home, at school, at the Club. Sadly there are some people who will seek to be where children are, simply to abuse them. We believe that everyone in the City of Sunderland Amateur Swimming Club and Amateur Swimming Association has a part to play in looking after children with whom they are working. The Children Act (2004) made it clear that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone within an organisation. It is a shared responsibility of organisations to promote children's wellbeing and safeguard them from harm.

The City of Sunderland Amateur Swimming Club adopts the principles of the Amateur Swimming Association (WAVE POWER 2009 & 2011) and in its accordance reinforces that:

- The welfare of children and young people are its first consideration.
- All children regardless of age, gender, racial origin, religious belief, sexual identity and disability have a right to enjoy sport, free from all forms of abuse or sexual exploitation.
- We have a responsibility for the welfare of children and young people who take part in our sport.
- We have a responsibility to maintain confidentiality in all cases involving child protection and poor practice in line with current legislation.
- To maintain high standards, and follow the recommended guidelines when dealing with child welfare.
- To ensure awareness of the child protection procedures within the Club, coupled with knowledge of the issues.
- To actively encourage / promote Club volunteers, members, coaches participation in regular child protection training.



City of Sunderland Amateur Swimming Club

- To ensure all coaches and volunteers involved in the sport understand their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and protecting children and have access to a copy of the child protection policy. A copy is also available to members via the COSASC website (www.cityofsunderlandasc.co.uk) or hard copies on request.
- To appoint a Club Welfare Officer to oversee that the procedures are followed at appropriate times. (Appendix 2, defines the role of the Welfare Officer)

A child is defined as any young person under the age of 18 years.

Definitions of child abuse can be found in appendix 1.

Procedures

It is not an individual club member / committee member / coach / swimmers responsibility to decide whether a child / young person is being abused; however, the ASA expect the former to act on their concerns. It is a club member / committee member / coach / swimmers responsibility to ensure the concerns raised are passed on appropriately.

Local Authority Swim Schemes

If a child is part of a school group or on a local authority play scheme, and the Club are involved, the expectation is that the guidelines lay down by the employer, or the centre at which the concerns arose, are followed.

It is mandatory that the Club appoint a Club Welfare Officer. This person should have knowledge of the ASA policy and procedures to advise anyone within the Club with a child welfare concern. They should be involved in any concern raised within the Club unless they are some way implicated in the concern.

Member(s) / official (s) or parent should follow the guidelines provided on the ASA website.