



**Kingsbridge Kingfishers Swimming Club**  
**Safeguarding Policy**

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## **Part I: Introduction**

Safeguarding means protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to experience the best outcomes. Child protection is part of this definition and refers to activities undertaken to prevent children suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm.

Safeguarding children at our club is an integral part of our activities and is about creating a culture that provides a safe and happy environment in which children can learn to swim and develop to a level appropriate for their ability. Aquatic sport should be enjoyable and fun, including the competitive aspect at whatever level undertaken, giving each individual a sense of achievement and satisfaction from taking part.

Kingsbridge Kingfishers Swimming Club is committed to ensuring that all children who participate in our activities are able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be safeguarded from harm.

### ***Responsibility to safeguard children***

The Children Acts 1989 and 2004 as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the Government document “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018” are clear that safeguarding

children is the responsibility of all, including those who are employed or volunteer with children in whatever capacity. It is the club's responsibility, through safe recruitment practice, to ensure that those who are deemed to be unsuitable to work with children are not allowed to do so in our sport. The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is an important, but not sole, part of our safe recruitment policy.

The club and its members must follow the guidance in Wavepower to safeguard children from harm and act appropriately if a child is identified as being at risk of harm.

The key principles of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) are:

- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each practitioner and organisation should play their full part; and
- a child-centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.

### ***Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility***

Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe; this includes officials, coaches and all who are employed or volunteer to work with children at the club.

No single individual can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

It is vital that every individual working with children and families is aware of the role that they have to play and the role of other practitioners. All members should be aware of, and comply with, the arrangements for safeguarding children laid out within this document.

## **Part II: Reporting Safeguarding Concerns**

Concerns about the welfare of children at the club should, in the first instance, be made to the Welfare Officer, either in person or via the email address [welfare@kksc.co.uk](mailto:welfare@kksc.co.uk)

Concerns that there is an immediate danger to the safety of the child must be made directly to the police, by phoning 999.

### ***If a child discloses a safeguarding issue to you, you should:***

- Listen to and believe them. Allow them time to talk freely and do not ask leading questions.
- Stay calm and do not show that you are shocked or upset.
- Tell the child they have done the right thing in telling you. Do not tell them they should have told you sooner.
- Explain that you will have to pass this information on. Do not promise to keep it a secret.

- If possible, write up your conversation in the child's own words. Stick to the facts and do not put your own judgement on it.

- Sign and date the write-up and pass it on to the Welfare Officer. Alternatively, if appropriate, make a referral to the police directly, and tell the Welfare Officer as soon as possible that you have done so. Aside from these people, do not disclose the information to anyone else unless told to do so by a relevant authority involved in the safeguarding process.

Bear in mind that some children may:

- Not feel ready, or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited or neglected
- Not recognise their experiences as harmful
- Feel embarrassed, humiliated or threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability, sexual orientation and/or language barriers

None of this should stop you from speaking to the Welfare Officer if you have concerns.

If you believe there is a conflict of interest in reporting a concern or allegation to/about the Welfare Officer, you should report it directly to the Devon County Welfare Officer using the email address: [welfare.officer@devonswimming.org.uk](mailto:welfare.officer@devonswimming.org.uk). Alternatively, you can call Swimline on 0808 100 4001 or you may report the concern directly to the Devon M.A.S.H. Team by phoning 0345 155 1071.

## Part III: Club Actions for Child Protection

### *Sharing of information with outside agencies*

The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe.

If it is appropriate to refer a safeguarding report to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or the police, the Welfare Officer will make the referral or support you to do so. They will also refer reports to the Swim England Child Safeguarding Team.

Parents or carers will be informed of a safeguarding concern raised with respect to their child, unless this would put the victim at greater risk.

The club will take all reasonable measures to protect the anonymity of any children involved in any report.

### *Allegations of abuse made against other children*

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Most cases of children harming other children will be dealt with under Swim England's anti-bullying policy, but this child protection and safeguarding policy will apply to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. This might include where the alleged behaviour:

- Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence
- Could put children in the club at risk

- Is violent
- Involves children being forced to use drugs or alcohol
- Involves sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment, such as indecent exposure, sexual assault, up-skirting or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos (including the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes)

In cases of child-on-child abuse, in addition to the above actions, the Welfare Officer will put a risk assessment and support plan in place for all children involved (including the victim(s), the child(ren) against whom the allegation has been made and any others affected). Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) will also be contacted by the Welfare Officer if appropriate.