



TIGERSHARKS CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Statement

Tigersharks recognises its responsibility to safeguard all children* and promote their welfare. The club is committed to creating an environment in which all children have a safe and positive experience.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount
- All children (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have a right to be protected from harm and be in a safe environment
- Working in partnership with children, parents** and other agencies is essential

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for children at Tigersharks
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt if they suspect that a child may be experiencing, or at risk of, harm

We will seek to safeguard children by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for all staff and volunteers
- Ensuring that all individuals who work with children in the club have the appropriate training. The Welfare Officer and the Chair of the Executive Committee must receive training every 2 years in child protection. All staff and volunteers shall have access to appropriate training on a regular basis, at least every 3 years (ASA accredited Child Protection Courses).
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks (including references and ASA enhanced CRB checks) are made.
- Ensuring that the club Welfare Officer's name and contact details are known to all staff, volunteers, members and parents
- Ensuring all child safeguarding matters are dealt with appropriately in accordance with the guidance for reporting and action in Wavepower (with regards to The Ridgeway Leisure Centre in accordance with the South West Safeguarding and Child Protection Shared Procedures)

- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers and ensuring information about Tigershark's child protection procedures are available to all.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Ensuring that confidentiality is maintained appropriately and in line with the best interests of the child
- Ensuring all papers relating to child safeguarding matters are held in a safe and secure manner. Any member of staff or volunteer receiving a disclosure of abuse, or noticing possible abuse, must make an accurate record as soon as possible noting what was said or seen, putting the event into context, and giving the date, time and location. All records must be dated and signed.
- Ensuring this policy is reviewed annually, and up-dated where appropriate

*Children are referring to all persons under the age of 18

**Parents'is anyone who has parental responsibility for the child concerned