



DINGWALL AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB WELLBEING AND PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

The welfare of children is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it comes to protecting children from abuse. Everyone in swimming from Club Officials to Coaches, Parents, Friends and Children themselves can help. Children and young people have a lot to gain from swimming. Their natural sense of fun and spontaneity can blossom in positive sporting environments. Swimming provides an excellent opportunity for children to learn new skills, become more confident and maximise their own unique potential. The Club will put the needs of the child and their enjoyment in swimming first and the competitive element second.

It is the policy of Dingwall ASC to ensure that every child or young person who takes part in swimming should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment. In addition, they should be protected from neglect, bullying, physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Any actions and comments made whilst dealing with young people should always be well considered and should never give rise to misinterpretation.

Definition of a Child:

For the purpose of this policy a child is defined as anyone less than 18 years of age.

The underlying principles with respect to child protection exercised at the club are that:

- The wellbeing of children is the primary concern.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm, poor practice, exploitation, bullying and abuse.
- Safeguarding and Child Protection is everyone's responsibility.
- Children have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so.
- Children and young people must be treated with integrity and respect.
- Swimming programmes and competitions will be relevant to their ages and stages of development.

All coaches and adult helpers are members of Scottish Swimming and the Club is committed to following the current guidelines on Wellbeing and Protection as set out by Scottish Swimming. These guidelines and other information about wellbeing and protection can be found here:

<https://www.scottishswimming.com/media/2817683/Wellbeing-Protection-Policy-Children-Young-People.pdf>



The Club:

- Aims to champion best practice and implement Scottish Swimming guidelines on key areas – minimum coach-to-athlete ratios, transport, accident reporting, behaviour management, consent forms, social media, overnight trips/accommodation, safe use of public facilities
- Has all volunteers, coaches, swimmers and parents agree to and sign the Club's Code of Conduct
- Will aim to be prepared to challenge and alter poor practice.
- Will implement any recommendations of Scottish Swimming relating to this area.
- Will aim to promote an environment where all legitimate concerns can be raised without fear of victimisation or reprisal.
- Will require all those working with children in regulated positions to attend a SCUK Safeguarding & Protecting Children workshop and have a satisfactory PVG check.

The Club's Wellbeing and Protection Officer will:

- Ensure all persons working either paid or unpaid with children and young people at the club are fully aware of what is required of them within the guidelines of their Club, the Wellbeing & Child Protection Policy and Codes of Conduct
- Conduct the administrative work associated with processing of information on volunteers/staff PVG scheme applications and self-declarations.
- Liaise closely with Club volunteers/staff ensuring that agreed procedures for the prevention of risk are followed.
- Counsel/advise the Club Committee on matters of policy relating to child wellbeing, safeguarding and protection.
- Act as the contact person for coaches/teachers, helpers, club volunteers, parents and participants on any issues concerning the wellbeing of children within the club, (poor practice or alleged abuse) as well as matters relating to child protection at the club.
- Ensure all incidents are correctly recorded and reported in accordance with Scottish Swimming policy and procedures.
- Work with Scottish Swimming Lead Safeguarding Officer on education, training and case management for the club.

Reporting a Wellbeing or Safeguarding Concern

If you have a concern about the wellbeing or safety of a swimmer, or about the behaviour of an adult or young person involved with the club, you should contact the club's Wellbeing and Protection Officer as soon as possible.

Concerns can be raised by swimmers, parents, volunteers, or coaches and will be handled sensitively and confidentially.

Club WPO: Iain Coles

Email: wpo@dingwallasc.com

If you believe a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm, contact the emergency services or your local social work department without delay.