

# Child Protection Policy

The **Whitworth Valley Angling Society (WVAS)** acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and The Child Protection in Sport requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport in all activities run and supported by the **WVAS** and are able to do so in a safe and child centered environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in angling or outside of the activity.

## AIMS

The **WVAS** acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy the **WVAS** will:

- **promote** and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- **ensure** everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- **ensure** appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- **ensure** that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- **prevent** the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- **ensure** robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
- support the training and development of all those supporting safeguarding standards in angling

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in the **WVAS**. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

## PRINCIPLES

- The welfare of children is always paramount
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin and religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All staff and volunteers working in angling have a responsibility to report concerns to the Club Welfare Officer
- Adults – staff, volunteers, coaches, referees and members will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of children and young people
- Individuals will receive support through education and training to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare or child protection issues that may come to light

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The **WVAS** Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants
- The Policy will be reviewed every three years by the Management Committee, and amended as appropriate. Guidance from the Angling Trust will be sought as part of the review process
- The Management Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including taking any appropriate disciplinary action necessary
- The Club Welfare Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, passing information to the appropriate National Governing Body Lead Child Protection Officer and informing the appropriate club staff
- Parents have a responsibility to work together with the club in implementing procedures and providing their children with the necessary information to safeguard themselves