

POOR PRACTICE & ABUSE

Poor practice and abuse can happen on any occasion or in any place where there are young people of any age. Someone may abuse a young person by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. The effects of abuse can be so damaging that if untreated, they may follow a person into adulthood.

Poor Practice

Poor practice can relate to a number of situations and behaviours where a child or young person is potentially at risk. Poor practice is unacceptable and should be challenged even where the motives of an individual are well meant.

Abuse

There are 4 types of abuse;

- Neglect
- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual

Neglect - Where a young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs are not met and is likely to result in the serious impairment of their health or development. This includes exposing young people to undue cold, heat or unnecessary risk of injury.

Physical Abuse - Where adults physically hurt or injure young people by hitting, shaking, throwing, drowning or otherwise causing physical harm to a young person. This also includes forcing a young person to train beyond their capabilities.

Emotional Abuse - The persistent emotional ill treatment of a young person such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the young person's emotional development. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a young person. This can include constant criticism, name calling, being threatened or subjected to unrealistic pressures.

Sexual Abuse - Where girls and boys are abused by adults (both male and female) who use young people to meet their own sexual needs. This could include talking to young people in a sexually explicit manner or touching in an inappropriate manner.

Bullying - Bullying is not classified as a form of child abuse however it can be a significant factor in other types of child abuse and can have equally detrimental consequences for a child. Bullying is anything done with the intention of hurting, intimidating, frightening or upsetting another person. Bullying is not always physical, but it results in distress to the victim.

“ONE VOICE”

BASIC PREVENTATIVE GUIDANCE

The below guidance provides basic good practice information of how everyone involved in the sport of water skiing and wakeboarding can continually contribute to the principle of ‘One Voice’ in the safeguarding of young people.

PARENTS / GUARDIANS – Should always:

- Ensure water skiing & wakeboarding tuition to the young person is provided by a BWSW Licensed Coach at a BWSW Affiliated Club / Centre, which has a trained Club Welfare Officer.
- Provide written consent to the Club / Centre or Coach for the young person to participate in water skiing & wakeboarding.
- Declare to the Club / Centre or Coach any long-term illness or injury suffered by the young person that may prohibit ‘on water’ participation on that occasion & have any medications to hand. (e.g. ‘Nebuliser’ for asthmatic conditions etc.)
- Prior to the training session, request sight from the Club / Centre & Coach of effective public liability & tow boat insurance, Coaches operating licence / DBS / First Aid documents and details of the Club Welfare Officer.
- Seek to be available onsite throughout the coaching session or competition.
- Put the welfare of the young person first, before winning or achieving goals.

COACHES & INSTRUCTORS – Should always:

- Be an excellent role model.
- Give enthusiastic & constructive feedback.
- Recognise the developmental needs of young people.
- Build balanced relationships built on mutual trust.
- Treat all young people equally, and with respect and dignity.
- Make water skiing & wakeboarding fun & enjoyable and, promote fair play.
- Put the welfare of the young person first, before winning or achieving goals.
- Withdraw an injured participant from continued training.
- Avoid excessive training and pushing a young person against their will.
- Avoid taking young people alone on car journeys or to your home.
- Provide physical support in an open manner.
- Never share a room with a young person.
- Provide coaching in an open and visible manner.

“ONE VOICE”

BASIC PREVENTATIVE GUIDANCE

BWSW OFFICIALS & DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES – Should always:

- Ensure that that all relevant officials who have regular contact with young people have received safeguarding training commensurate to their role.
- Ensure that at competitions/events where young persons are competing, that there is an onsite person designated to the role of ‘Event Welfare Officer’ for the duration of the event who has received BWSW basic safeguarding training (to be introduced in 2020).
- Ensure that at competitions/events where young persons are competing that mixed teams are chaperoned by a male and female adult.
- Never allow an official or coach to share a room with a young person.
- Ensure that at competitions or residential events adults do not enter children’s rooms or invite children into their rooms.
- Gain appropriate written parental/guardian consent for participation wherever required.
- Never allow any person, nor young persons, or themselves to engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Never allow young people to use inappropriate language or bullying to go unchallenged.
- Never allow anyone to do things of a personal nature for young people or disabled adults that they can do for themselves.
- Never allow any person to make sexually suggestive comments to a young person.
- Never allow any official or other person at an event to reduce a young person to tears.

BWSW CLUB COMMITTEE / APPROVED CENTRE OWNER – Should always: (as applicable)

- Designate a person to the office of Club Welfare Officer who holds a Committee position.
- Ensure that at all times 50% of Club Committee members have received the BWSW basic safeguarding training for Committee members (to be introduced in 2020), inclusive of Club appointed Club Welfare Officers.)
- Annually, pre-season, conduct a check of BWSW accredited Club Welfare Officer and Licensed Coaches to ensure that all required 3 year accreditations of DBS certificate, First Aid certificate and refresher safeguarding training are current or need to be renewed.
- Ensure that the trained skills of their Club Welfare Officer are utilised in the formation and annual review of their club Safeguarding Policy & Procedures and Risk Assessments.
- Remember that BWSW does not advise that a Club should simultaneously have a Licensed Coach appointed as a Club Welfare Officer.
- Report any potential safeguarding incident to BWSW and BWSW Insurer as soon as possible, as failure to do so could prejudice the cover provided by the insurer.

“ONE VOICE”

BASIC PREVENTATIVE GUIDANCE

Continued



CLUB MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS – Should always:

- Understand the principle of Safeguarding with “One Voice” & if having regular contact with young people have received safeguarding training commensurate to their role in the club.
- Demonstrate exemplary behaviour at all times to safeguard children & protect themselves from allegations.
- Ensure that any allegation made to them by a young person are remitted to the Club Welfare Officer or BWSW Lead Safeguarding Officer.