

MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

The Manx Model Boat Club runs model boating events and activities encouraging children to become involved by 'having-a-go.' Children have a legal right to be safe and secure in the activities that they, or their parents/guardians, choose. Parents have a right to know that the organisation to which they entrust them is safe.

The Manx Model Boat Club is committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and expects all Club members to share this commitment and to be aware of their own safeguarding responsibilities.

Children: A child is, as defined by the Children Act 1989:

As "a person under the age of 18 years".

RESPONDING TO A CONCERN

- Stay calm.
- Reassure the child that they are not to blame and that they were right to tell.
- Listen to them – show that you are taking what is being said seriously.
- Keep questions to a minimum – although you must have a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said, the law is strict and an abuse case can be dismissed if it appears a child has been led, or words and ideas have been suggested.
- Explain that you will have to tell other people in order to stop the abuse.
- Record what's happened, consider using the Incident Report Form.
- Report what's happened to any Committee Member as soon as possible.

The safety of the child is paramount so if they need urgent medical attention/protection call an ambulance/police, inform the doctors/officers of the concern and ensure that they are made aware that this is a safeguarding issue.

If you suspect that a child may be the subject of abuse, it is not your responsibility to decide whether abuse has occurred/is occurring but it is your duty to report your concern to any Committee Member.

Best Practice in Safeguarding

ALWAYS:

- Work in an open environment i.e. avoid private or unobserved situations and encourage open communications with 'no secrets'.
- Treat all children equally, with respect and dignity.
- Put the welfare of the child first.
- Build balanced relationships based on mutual trust, empowering children to share in the decision-making process.
- Be an excellent role model – this includes not smoking or drinking in the company of children.
- Request written parental/guardian consent before you transport children in your car.
- Avoid private or unprofessional communication with children by phone, text, letter, social media or email and don't grant children access to your personal social media profiles.

NEVER:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unrecorded or acted upon.
- Take a child to your home where they will be alone with you.

REPORTING IF:

- You accidentally hurt a child.
- A child seems distressed in any manner.
- A child appears to be sexually aroused by your actions.
- A child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done.

If you have a concern report it immediately to any Committee Member, record it, and ensure the parent/guardian are informed.