

Liverpool Victoria Rowing Club

Safeguarding and Protecting Children at Liverpool Victoria Rowing Club

In line with British Rowing (BR) Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy, Liverpool Victoria Rowing Club (LVRC) is committed to enabling all its members to participate in rowing in a fun and safe environment. We also believe that the welfare of junior rowers is paramount and that we all (coaches, parents, general members) have a duty of care to safeguard children and prevent their abuse. We believe that adults play a particularly important role in acting as role models and enabling others, especially young people, to get the most from their participation in this sport.

In supporting junior rowing activity, LVRC will act in accordance with British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy. In becoming members of LVRC, all individuals agree to abide by this Policy and any associated codes of conduct and guidance and to ensure that their behaviour is appropriate at all times. Full detail of British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy is available on the BR website. Go to www.britishrowing.org/taking-part/juniors/safeguarding. A copy is also available within the boathouse. In addition, the Club has also adopted an Anti-Bullying Policy full details of which are available within the boathouse.

Codes of Conduct

BR have outlined expectations of behaviour for all those involved in rowing, whether they be adult/junior rowers, club volunteers, coaches or parents supporting their children's activity (**British Rowing Code of Conduct Section WG1.4 of the Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy and Guidance**). We expect that all those involved in rowing will familiarise themselves with these codes and act accordingly. Generally we expect club members, especially adults, to adhere to the following good practice to:

- Respect everyone as an individual and treat everyone equitably
- Provide a good example of acceptable behaviour
- Respect everyone's right to personal privacy
- Be available as a listening ear and, if necessary, refer for more appropriate help
- Be sensitive to other people's likes and dislikes
- Try to ensure that your words and actions cannot be misunderstood or cause offence
- Show understanding when dealing with sensitive issues and treat all concerns seriously
- Report any concerns they have or are made aware of regarding the welfare of juniors
- Plan to have more than one adult present during junior activities
- Never undertake or condone abusive or bullying behaviour

- Never have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others, whether in person or via email or other internet communication

We believe that Juniors also have an important role to play in helping the Club fulfil its safeguarding responsibilities. We expect that juniors will:

- Treat others with respect and not get involved, either in person or through online media, in any kind of bullying behaviour towards other juniors such as name calling, damaging or stealing other's belongings, spreading rumours, sending unkind texts or emails
- Turn up prepared and on time for all rowing activities
- Follow all reasonable instructions from coaches, umpires and other adult Club members
- Not make insulting or abusive comments towards coaches, umpires and other Club members either in person or via other online/social media
- Encourage parents/carers to get involved in supporting their rowing activities and Club activities, in general
- Let the Club know if you have any concerns about the way you or others are being treated

Junior Coaching and Competition

Junior rowing, including water-based and land training, is supported by a dedicated group of appropriately qualified coaches and launch drivers, along with experienced volunteer helpers. A Junior Co-ordinator will oversee junior rowing activities and will act as a first point of contact for all junior rowing related queries. The Club Welfare Officer will provide advice on matters relating to Safeguarding practice and will act as first point of contact regarding any child protection concerns. All those involved in directly supporting junior activity will be CRB checked; this will include those coaches and volunteers on the rota as well as other Club members as necessary and in accordance with BR policy.

As well as rowing at the West Float, juniors will be encouraged to enter competitive events, which are a great way to get more experience and enjoyment from rowing. The Junior coaching team will keep juniors and parents informed of forthcoming competitions and the specific events for which the Club would like to enter members of the Junior squad. Further information about junior involvement in racing is available in the LVRC Junior Rowing Guide to Racing.

Expectations of training: How much and how often?

British Rowing have produced guidance (WG 3.2) relating to the amount and type of rowing-related training those juniors wishing to take part in competitive rowing might reasonably be expected to undertake. In part this guidance is designed to illustrate how much training may be required to be competitive but it is also intended to protect

juniors from pressure to train harder or more often than is necessary or even desirable from a physical and/or motivational perspective. The guidance takes account of other activities with which juniors may be involved outside of rowing such as PE lessons and other sports/leisure activities.

In providing junior sessions the Club takes account of this guidance and will not require juniors to do more than is advised.

Please refer to the BR guidance for further information: **WG 3.2 How much and how often?** Available from www.britishrowing.org/taking-part/juniors/safeguarding

Photography

From time to time the Club may wish to take photographs (stills as well as video photography) of junior rowing activity. Photos would only be used for official Club advertising/promotion purposes via, for example, Club newsletters, the Club website, newspaper articles. Photos of crews racing at competitive events may be framed and displayed in the Club. Video photography may be taken from time to time for coaching purposes; such video will not be made publicly available. Parents who do not wish for their son/daughter to be photographed or videoed can indicate this on the initial membership form.

Transport to and from training/competitive events

The Club will not arrange transport for juniors to or from events. It is expected that parents/carers will arrange transport for their own children to and from the Club for training, as well as to and from competitive events.

For junior training sessions, it is expected that juniors will have left or will have been collected from the Club premises half an hour following the end of a junior training session.

Where competitions, especially summer regattas, are held over two days and there is the possibility for overnight camping parents must be willing to accompany their children.

Communication

Wherever possible, information about rowing activity including information about forthcoming competitions will be communicated to junior members and their parents/guardians in person, as well as via notices posted in the Club. Occasionally information will also be communicated by phone or email, using parental contact numbers/addresses.

Medical Information/Next of Kin

Given that parents or guardians may not always be present for the full duration of training sessions or competitive events, the Club will collect medical and emergency

contact information via the initial membership/parental consent forms. This information will be taken to events to be available in case of emergencies. Please can the Club, via the Junior Co-ordinator, be made aware of any changes to medical information.

Reporting Concerns

Any concerns regarding the welfare of any junior and/or practice relating to junior rowing should be referred immediately to the Club Welfare Officer, Paul Fegan (welfare@lvrc.co.uk) who will take appropriate action. This may include referring the concerns to the Child Protection Officer at British Rowing and/or to a statutory child protection agency such as Wirral Safeguarding Children Board. In the absence of the Club Welfare Officer concerns should be referred to a member of the Club Committee who will follow the same procedures for reporting concerns. Full detail of procedures for reporting concerns are available in Section 3 of British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy.

If a child says or indicates that they or anyone else have been abused they must be listened to carefully and calmly, offered support and understanding and an expression of belief. They must be allowed to speak without interruption. They should be informed that the information they give cannot be kept secret but must be passed on to Child Protection services. All details should be noted carefully and passed to the Club Welfare Officer and the Child Protection service.