

## Putney Bridge Canoe Club –Safeguarding Policy

Putney Bridge Canoe Club (PBCC) is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. All members are expected to show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of others and to conduct themselves, both on and off the water, in a way that reflects the principles and policies of the club. PBCC has a code of conduct which the club expects members to follow. It is published on the club website, and a hard copy can be provided upon request to the club's Welfare Officer.

The trustees' view is that taking part in paddlesports should be a positive and enjoyable part of members' lives and should take place in a safe environment. The welfare of adult and junior members is paramount, and it is every member's responsibility to protect all members from harm.

PBCC promotes good practice in paddlesports and related activities, in order to reduce the likelihood of situations arising which would encourage abuse of members and to protect the club's coaches, helpers and others. When participating in the club's activities, junior members must always be accompanied by a responsible adult, and that individual is responsible for the child's safety and welfare at all times, both on and off the water.

PBCC recognises and acknowledges it has responsibility to safeguard and promote the interests and wellbeing of adults and children, to take all reasonable steps to protect them from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment, and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings. The club is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all its members without discrimination, irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race or skin colour, religion or belief, social status, sex and sexual orientation.

PBCC's coaches and helpers are expected to comply with British Canoeing's [Code of Ethics](#) and to read and adhere to British Canoeing's [Safeguarding Adults Policy](#) and [Safeguarding Children Policy](#). In the event that anyone makes an allegation of abuse or raises any safeguarding concerns, the club's trustees and Welfare Officer will follow the guidance in those policies.

### **Incident reporting procedure**

If any member suspects any form of abuse of a child or an adult at risk, or that there is risk thereof, they are strongly encouraged to contact the club's Welfare Officer, who will ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of disclosed concerns are made and are stored securely.

If appropriate, a report should also be made to British Canoeing's Safeguarding Officer and/or to the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline. Contact details for both may be found below.

Depending on the circumstances, the trustees of the club may consider it appropriate for the member about whom the allegation is made to be suspended from participating in the club's activities while the incident is investigated. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times, with all disclosed information being shared only as appropriate and necessary in order to investigate and resolve the issue.

## **Useful contacts**

PBCC's Welfare Officer  
Connor Lennon  
Email: [connorjlennon@gmail.com](mailto:connorjlennon@gmail.com)

British Canoeing's Safeguarding Officer  
Name: Aneela Mushtaq  
Tel. no. 0115 896 8842  
Email: [safeguarding@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@britishcanoeing.org.uk)

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline  
Tel. no. 0808 800 5000

The club's trustees will review this policy annually.

Signed: The General Committee

Date: 1 December 2023