



CODE OF ETHICS AND PRINCIPALS OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

CLIFDEN BOAT CLUB

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Clifden Boat Club and Sailing School to safeguard the welfare of all children by protecting them from physical, sexual, and emotional harm. Due to the nature of activities it is necessary to be proactive for the protection of children and the staff of CBC. In doing so we will abide by best practice as set down in the IS publication “Code of Ethics and Good Practice”.

This is carried out by: **Helen Ferguson and Pascal Marinot and will include-**

- Giving children, parents, guardians and staff information about safety guidelines and work practices at CBC
- Letting children, parents, guardians and staff know how to voice their concerns or complain if there is anything they are not happy about.
- Ensuring that all staff or volunteers working with children are fully Garda Vetted.
- The SI will ensure all staff are fully briefed in relation to this subject.

This code is designed to cover all activities involving vulnerable participants.

This safe environment for children will be achieved by:

- Detailing a comprehensive Code of Ethics Policy.
- Defining the accepted relationships and behaviour of staff members and students.
- Detailing the reporting procedures of suspected child abuse instances.
- Undertaking appropriate staff training in the area of Child Care.
- Appointing a member as a Child Liaison Officer.
- This will also apply to vulnerable adults.

Role of the Child Liaison Officer

To ensure that the guidelines and policies set down by CBC are followed and to ensure that policy will be updated in accordance with future Government Legislation. It is important that this person has an interest in the welfare of children and is happy to volunteer for this position.

The role of the Liaison Officer will also be

- To influence appropriate policy and practice within the Club.
- To ensure that all policy and decisions take account of the child’s needs as a matter of priority.
- To facilitate the communication with children through the creation of opportunities by which children can express their needs and worries.
- To act as an advisory resource to staff and instructors on child protection issues ensuring that statutory guidelines and procedures are followed.

- To be trained and to ensure that all staff have an understanding of child protection procedures.
- Have a basic understanding of children's development, know how to communicate and develop a rapport with children.
- To keep all staff informed of all changes to Club and Government Policies.

Instructor code of conduct working with children

During the day instructors are expected to observe safe working practices, such as;

- Avoiding one on one situations with students
- Not to engage in bullying, horseplay or other inappropriate behaviour.
- To behave as a role model to students who may wish to emulate them.
- If a student discloses an issue of any nature to an instructor this must be reported to the S.I. or C.L.O for further action.

Student code of conduct.

Students in CBC are part of a team, headed by the instructors. As such they are expected to;

- Arrive before 10 am each morning.
- Be prepared for session, properly clothed and have had breakfast.
- Be willing to help and be helped as directed by their instructors.

Due to the size of our courses discipline is rarely a problem, however students are encouraged;

- Not to engage in any form of bullying, rough play or name calling.
- To report any untoward behaviour to instructors, or to the CLO
- To maintain a positive attitude with younger students, and to help them as much as possible.

Disciplinary Procedures in working with children

- Any instructor found to be behaving in any way which could be considered in proper will be subject to serious redress.
- This includes; Rough horseplay
Inappropriate behaviour.

Similarly-

Any student who is found to be causing problems which affect the normal operating procedure will be considered to be a challenge.

It is not the policy of CBC to kick students off courses, CBC will endeavour to solve any behavioural problems to the best advantage of all in the situation.

However, if a student or situation is unworkable, then CBC will take whatever steps necessary to preserve the health and safety all students and staff involved.

i.e. If a student is involved in activities which affect the safe operating procedures at CBC then the S.I. in consultation with the Club Committee may require that the student does not finish their course. Depending on the nature of the issues the student or parents involved this may be subject to further follow up.

It goes without saying that any members of staff, or students suspected to be breaking the law will be reported to the necessary authorities.

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