



ONE VOICE

Safeguarding



**A BWSW guide to safeguard
young persons water skiing & wakeboarding**

INTRODUCTION TO “ONE VOICE”

Water skiing & wakeboarding in all forms can and does have a powerful and positive influence on people – especially young people.

Not only can it provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement, it can also develop valuable qualities such as self-esteem, leadership and teamwork.

Such positive effects can only happen when our sport is conducted by all persons at all levels of the sport within the principle of “ONE VOICE” that places the welfare of all young people first.

The provision of safeguarding training, knowledge and guidance & the implementation of safeguarding practices that support, protect and empower young people is the key to embedding safeguarding throughout the sport.

British Water Ski & Wakeboard (BWSW) is committed to ensuring that all young people who participate in water skiing & wakeboarding have a safe and positive experience, and this guide is therefore for everyone involved in water skiing and wakeboarding including:

- Participants
- Parents/Guardians
- Coaches / Instructors
- BWSW Officials & Discipline Committees
- BWSW Affiliated Clubs & Approved Centres
- Volunteers & Club Members
- All other persons involved in the sport

The guide provides:

- An overview of safeguarding
- An overview of the forms of child abuse
- Good Practice advice
- How to act on any concerns you may have
- Key safeguarding contacts

Note: - Full Safeguarding Policies for Young People & Adults, Codes of Conduct for Members and Coaches and Safeguarding Templates for Clubs to adopt can be found on BWSW website under the term ‘Safeguarding.’

SAFEGUARDING WITH “ONE VOICE”

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm and abuse.

Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment.
- Preventing harm to children’s health or development.
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

It is the duty of all BWSW Affiliated Clubs and Approved Centres, members and persons engaged in or supporting water skiing & wakeboarding in all forms, whether recreationally or competitively, to demonstrate exemplary behaviour at all times towards young people. By doing so collectively and within the principle of “One Voice,” their interests will be safeguarded throughout the sport at all times.

This should be done in the following ways:

- Everyone having a duty of care for young people to safeguard their well-being and protect them from abuse.
- Respecting and promoting the rights, wishes and feelings of young people.
- Recruiting, training and supervising any employees and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect young people from abuse and any allegation against themselves.
- Ensure all involved in the sport undertake their role in accordance with the BWSW Codes of Ethics and Behaviour & Safeguarding Policy & Procedures.
- Report any concerns about poor practice or allegations of abuse to the Club or Centre Welfare Officer or BWSW Lead Safeguarding Officer.
- The Committee of BWSW affiliated Clubs & Approved Centres to annually ensure that DBS / First Aid / Safeguarding accreditations of Licensed Coaches and Welfare Officer are up to date.

It is important to remember that it is not the responsibility of those within the BWSW network to determine if abuse has occurred, but to act upon and report any concerns.

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.

REPORTING CONCERNS

It is important that any concerns or incidents are reported as soon as possible – it is not your responsibility to decide if child abuse or poor practice has taken place, but it is your responsibility to report any concerns you do have.

1. React immediately.
2. Remain calm and do not pass judgement.
3. If a young person is disclosing information to you, tell them they are not to blame and were right to tell you.
4. If the young person requires medical attention, call an ambulance and inform the responding medical attendee that there is a Child Protection concern.
5. Make a detailed note of your observations or what was said exactly.
6. Speak to the Club / Centre Welfare Officer and refer the matter to him/her or contact the BWSW Lead Safeguarding Officer.
7. If the above are not available and the child is at further risk, refer to your local area Children's Services or the Police.
8. No matter what the nature of the safeguarding concern or incident is, the matter must be dealt with in line with BWSW's main Safeguarding Policy & Procedures.

24 hour free helplines for advice are as follows:

For adults

NSPCC

**0808 800 5000
nspcc.org.uk**

For children & young people

Childline

0800 11 11

**BWSW Lead
Safeguarding Officer**

**01932 560007
safeguarding@bwsf.co.uk**

“ONE VOICE”

British Water Ski & Wakeboard has produced this “ONE VOICE” Guide to Safeguarding Young Persons Water Skiing and Wakeboarding as an essential safeguarding tool of reference for all members or persons participating in the sport.

Following the simple guidance provided will ensure that young people have the same safe, friendly and enjoyable experience of water skiing and wakeboarding at any of our BWSW Affiliated Clubs & Approved Centres.

The Main BWSW “One Voice” Safeguarding Policy & Procedures

Provides the sport with the framework to ensure that the whole sport takes up the challenge of continuously improving the participation conditions for young people. The policy is backed up by a comprehensive structured implementation plan and a sensitive process to respond to concerns.

How will safeguarding affect me?

Safeguarding and child welfare in water skiing & wakeboarding is mandatory to all. The main BWSW “One Voice” Policy has been developed to provide a comprehensive and complete guide to all those who manage Clubs & Approved Centres, or ski, ride, coach, officiate, assist or volunteer in water skiing and wakeboarding.

How does safeguarding affect my Club?

Abuse can occur anywhere there are young people of any age. Sadly, there are some people who will seek to be where young people are simply in order to abuse them; this includes the water ski and wakeboard clubs. It is therefore imperative that each and every BWSW Affiliated Club or Approved Centre adopts and implements its own robust safeguarding policy and procedures. BWSW has free templates to assist and enable our Clubs & Centres to do so.

“ONE VOICE”

What does my Club / Centre need to do?

Safeguarding & child protection will not be implemented overnight. It is a long-term process and is the responsibility of the whole Club / Approved Centre to implement safeguarding policy and procedures. BWSW will assist & enable existing & ‘start-up’ affiliated Clubs / Approved Centres to meet the required criteria.

Club Welfare Officer (CWO)

- A Club / Approved Centre must nominate a CWO who will advise and ensure that safeguarding is being adhered to at the site.
- The CWO will be the point of contact for all safeguarding concerns and queries.
- Having appointed a CWO inform BWSW who will assist & enable the CWO in their registration.
- The CWO must be DBS checked and undertake a relevant 3 hour safeguarding training course.



BWSW strongly recommends

That all coaches, instructors, officials and volunteers involved with young people should read and have knowledge of the full BWSW Safeguarding Policies and Procedures available online at

www.bsw.org.uk/safeguarding



Useful Contacts

BWSW Lead Safeguarding Officer

01932 560007

safeguarding@bwsf.co.uk

NSPCC

0808 800 5000

Childline

0800 1111

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