

Minnis Bay Windsurfing Club: Child Protection Policy

As defined in the Children Act 1989, for the purposes of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. The policy also applies to vulnerable adults.

It is the policy of the Minnis Bay Windsurfing Club (MBWC) to safeguard children and young people taking part in windsurfing from physical, sexual or emotional harm. The MBWC will take all reasonable steps to ensure that, through appropriate procedures and training, children participating in MBWC activities do so in a safe environment. We recognise that the safety and welfare of the child is paramount and that all children, whatever their age, gender, disability, culture, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, social status or sexual identity, have a right to protection from abuse.

The MBWC actively seeks to:

- Create a safe and welcoming environment, both on and off the water, where children can have fun and develop their skills and confidence.
- Support and encourage recognised training centres, affiliated clubs and class associations to implement similar policies.
- Recognise that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone, not just those who work with children.
- Ensure that any MBWC -organised training and events are run to the highest possible safety standards.
- Be prepared to review its ways of working to incorporate best practice.

The MBWC will:

- Treat all children with respect and celebrate their achievements.
- Carefully recruit and select all employees, contractors and volunteers.
- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all complaints and concerns about poor practice or suspected or actual child abuse.

This policy relates to all employees, contractors, members and volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults in the course of their MBWC duties. It will be kept under periodic review. All relevant concerns, allegations, complaints and their outcome should be notified to the MBWC Chairman or Commodore.

Duty of Care

When working with young people, it is essential they understand that if they disclose information to members which is a cause for concern,

then the member concerned has a *Duty of Care* to report those concerns to Social Services.

Membership

Currently, any junior windsurfer wishing to join the club must do so as the child of an adult member who will be welcomed as part of their family membership. The adult member must take responsibility for their child's behaviour and safety. Junior windsurfers will not be admitted without a parent or legal guardian as a member.