

Carnforth & District A.S. Child Protection Policy & Guidelines

Introduction

At Carnforth Otters swimming club, the welfare of children is central to our philosophy of teaching and coaching swimming. We believe that it is the duty of *all* members of the club to acknowledge the policies and procedures that are devised in order to ensure that the swimmers have a safe and happy environment in which to enjoy their chosen sport.

The **ASA** and **NSPCC** have worked together for a number of years on research and education into child welfare, and regularly update their comprehensive information based on latest research. This club policy is based upon guidelines published by the ASA and NSPCC.

Any member of the club can have access to the published guidelines either by contacting the ASA, or by contacting the club's welfare officers **Kirstie Banks-Lyon** and **Amanda Livingstone** who have copies for loan. This policy document contains information which is for the use of members who wish to formally or informally discuss issues of children's welfare.

Key principles

The following principles form the basis for the club child protection processes:

- The welfare of children is the first consideration;
- All children regardless of age, gender, racial origin, religious belief, sexual identity or any disability, have a right to enjoy sport free from all forms of abuse or sexual exploitation;
- All ASA associated clubs have responsibilities for the welfare of children and young people who take part in our sport;
- Officers of the club have a responsibility to maintain confidentiality in cases of child protection and poor practice, in line with current legislation;
- The club will not tolerate poor practice in dealing with child welfare.

Child Abuse

There are said to be five main types of child abuse: Physical abuse; Sexual abuse; Emotional abuse; Neglect; and Bullying, and although children may be subjected to more than one 'type', often any form of child abuse is hidden by abusers, making it difficult to identify. In the context of sport, and in particular swimming, it is unfortunately true that some people access pools, clubs and their facilities for the purpose of child abuse. For further details refer to the ASA website <http://www.britishswimming.org.uk> and follow links for 'Child Protection'.

Carnforth & District A.C.S. Child Protection Policy

Good Practice

- Within Carnforth Otters club, the overall aim for all staff and poolside helpers is to ensure that children remain safe at all times and are treated with care and respect.
- The club has a code of conduct that *all members of the club whether swimmers, parents, coaches teachers or helpers* should follow.
- All new members of the club will be given copies of club policies and guidelines, along with contact names and numbers for club welfare officers, group/squad reps. and external organisations.
- The club will not allow bullying or humiliating behaviour, racist or sexist comments within the club.
- Regarding swimmers with particular health/social/psychological or physical needs, the club will ascertain with the swimmers' and parents' views how those needs can best be met.
- Parents/teachers/poolside helpers should work in pairs where possible when responsible for groups of children in changing rooms.
- All personnel who are involved in teaching/helping or supervising children in the club will be subject to enhanced level of clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau.
- All personnel in the club whether coaches, teachers or poolside helpers, should attend **Child Protection** awareness training
- All members of the club should be aware that some people with no club connection may try to access club facilities to watch children training. If anyone is watching in this way, all members agree to report the incident to the coach, poolside staff or any committee member as soon as possible.
- The club will follow ASA and Lancaster City Council guidance regarding still and video photography of swimmers. For further information, contact Club Welfare officers or ASA.
- Teachers and poolside helpers have a duty of care for swimmers until they leave the poolside with an appropriate adult. **NB Parents/carers also have a duty of care to their children, and if parents persistently fail to collect their children at the appropriate times, the club is advised by the ASA to refer the matter appropriately.**

Carnforth & District A.S.C Child Protection Policy

If you are concerned about a child

- It is important to remember that you do not have to decide whether or not a child is at risk of abuse, or is being abused.
- However, It is also important that if you have concerns about any child in the club, or about any issue that might affect the welfare of the children in the club, that you know who to contact – and that you are willing to contact them.
- If a child discloses to you that they are being abused, you can reassure them that you will try to help, but you must not promise to keep the information confidential. For more detailed guidance about this, speak to one of our Child Welfare Officers or access the ASA website and follow links to Child Protection.
- Write down what they have told you as closely as you remember, then contact either one of the club's child welfare officers, teachers or coaches who will advise you.

Club Welfare Officer(s)

Kirstie Banks Lyon 01524 421315 or 07919388870