



PORT BOUVARD YACHT CLUB

VULNERABLE PERSONS SAFETY POLICY



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Introduction

Port Bouvard Yacht Club was established in 2000 on the partially reclaimed foreshore of the Harvey Estuary adjacent the Dawesville Cut.

Since it was established, PBYC has encouraged a broad range of sailing experiences across all ages and levels of experience while encouraging a relaxed, friendly, family orientated and volunteering environment.

Our Club operates as a volunteer organisation with a group of dedicated persons (sailors and non-sailors) who form the instructor, coaching, safety boat, race management and administration support teams that proactively support the clubs activities.

It is imperative that all PBYC members and volunteers ensure that we continue to promote and provide a safe environment, particularly for Juniors (aged under 18) during their sailing, training activities and social interaction with adults at all times. This applies to any oral or electronic communication contact with Juniors either at or outside of the Club.

Our Goals & Commitments

Port Bouvard Yacht Club is committed to child safety and will ensure that all Juniors who engage with our Club - its members and volunteers do so in a safe environment.

PBYC while acting in our Juniors best interests promotes the concept of a safe sporting environment while understanding:

- All members and volunteers, especially children, have the right to have fun and be safe in sport.
- PBYC Club acknowledges that our volunteers provide a valuable contribution to the positive experiences of our juniors, and we aim to ensure this continues by protecting the safety and welfare of all participants, especially those most vulnerable.
- Sport is uniquely placed to contribute to safeguarding the welfare of children.
- Close proximity of instructors and coaches, intense and competitive atmosphere may place children and adults in vulnerable situations.
- Sport may provide easy access to someone who may want to harm children



- All members especially youth and junior members, while enjoying sailing, should be safe from physical, emotional and sexual abuse.
- The kinds of abuse most likely to occur during sports activities are emotional abuse including bullying, physical violence and sexual abuse.

Our Vulnerable Persons Safety Policy

- All children under 18 years of age attend the club only with their parents' permission and knowledge.
- No child may be left unattended at the Club either while parents are sailing or if parents decide to leave the club environs.
- The club will have a documented safety policy for all areas, on and off shore.
- Children and other vulnerable people will be given appropriate safety and protection while in the care of Port Bouvard Yacht Club
- Port Bouvard Yacht Club and its members will follow the code of conduct below for people working with children and other vulnerable persons.
- The Club provides procedures below for raising concerns or complaints.
- The Club provides education and/or information to its officials and volunteers on detecting and reporting child abuse and the approach to be taken toward child protection.
- The club will provide information to increase awareness of this issue among club members.
- Event programs, newsletters will be used to maintain awareness of the issue and to prompt protective behavior.
- Club officials will act as suitable role models.
- Our Vulnerable Persons Safety Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that the document remains current and practical to the Clubs requirements.



Our Code of Conduct for Working with Children

- With the exception of parent volunteers as outlined by rules and guidelines of the Department of Communities, all trainers including volunteers must hold a current Working With Children card.
- Always be publicly open when working with children.
- Avoid situations where you and an individual child are completely unobserved.
- Where possible parents, should take responsibility for their children in changing rooms.
- If groups are to be supervised in changing rooms, always ensure that adults work in pairs.

- Volunteers and members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all and treat everyone with equality.
- Volunteers and members must place the well-being and safety of the sailors above the development of performance.
- Adults must ensure that the activities which they direct or advocate are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of the participant.
- Adults should always promote the positive aspects of their sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone rule violations.
- Adults must consistently display high standards of personal behaviour.
- Adults should never overtly criticise children or use sarcasm where it may cause the person to lose self-esteem or confidence.

- Adult members should be aware that as a general rule it does not make sense to spend amounts of time alone with children away from others.

Our Procedures for Raising Complaints or Concerns



- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Officials and other club volunteers are not trained to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred. However, they should be aware of their responsibility to report concerns if they arise.
- All officials working in the club are volunteers and have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer (Commodore).

Our Actions If There Are Concerns

- **Concerns about poor practice: this includes bullying, poor sportsmanship, verbal abuse of crew or other sailors, and unwanted personal attention.**
 - If, following consideration, the allegation is clearly about poor practice, the Commodore as the nominated Club Child Welfare Officer, will deal with it as a misconduct issue.
 - If the allegation is about poor practice by said Club Child Welfare Officer, or if the matter has been handled inadequately and concerns remain, it must be reported to Australian Sailing WA, who will decide how to deal with the allegation and whether or not to initiate disciplinary proceedings.
- **Concerns about suspected abuse:**
 - Any suspicion that a child has been abused by either any member or volunteer should be reported to the Commodore as the nominated Club Child Welfare Officer (or in his/her absence, an appropriate adult) who will take such steps as considered necessary to ensure the safety of the child in question and any other child who may be at risk.
 - The Commodore or appropriate adult will refer the allegation to the Department for Communities Child Protection and Family Support (or such government department that may replace the current Department for Communities Child Protection and Family Support) or directly to the Police where the incident is deemed to require such action.
 - The parents or carers of the child will be contacted as soon as possible following advice from the Department for Communities Child Protection and Family Support or police.



- The Commodore, will inform Australian Sailing WA, who will deal with any media enquiries.
- If the nominated reporting officer is the subject of the suspicion/allegation, the report must be made to the appropriate Club Office bearer, i.e. Vice Commodore or Rear Commodore Sailing or in their absence the Australian Sailing WA Child Protection Officer who will refer the allegation to the Department for Communities Child protection and Family Support.